DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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DODDY JOINS THEATRE BATTLE

LEGENDARY comic Ken Dodd brought a tear to the eye of campaigners after revealing his ambition to host a charity concert to help save Dudley Hippodrome.

Hundreds cheered the veteran entertainer as he made reference to his love for the town's historic venue during his show at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday.

Report by Andrew Turton

He raised the roof when he said it was a 'pity' Dudley Council continued to pursue plans to demolish the Castle Hill theatre as part of regeneration plans.

Marathon

During his marathon show which, barring two breaks for other acts, lasted more than five hours and finished at 12.35am, he talked about his early visits to the Hippodrome.

He told the audience: "I recall playing down at Dudley Hippodrome umpteen times. It was such a pity to hear this news but I would go as far to say I would quite willingly put a show on free of charge to help the campaign."

Ken Dodd was among a galaxy of stars to grace the stage at the popular variety theatre including Bob Hope, Laurel and Hardy, Tommy Cooper, Max Miller and Bob Monkhouse.

Among those in the audience for Ken's show was Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group founder Malcolm Palmer who had attended to watchone of his all-time favourite comedians.

Mr Palmer said: "It brought a tear to my eye to hear him speak like that. The whole audience were lcheering. He spoke about the Hippodrome for around 15 minutes.

"It was amazing how much he could remember and how much he knew about the Black Country. It is great for the campaign."

Audience member Graham Colbourne, aged 69, from Milking Bank, said: "He recalled memories of the good times he had performing there and said he would do a free concert to save this Black Country landmark.

"As you can imagine the the audience were thrilled."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome are holding a meeting tonight at the ex-serviceman's club, in Hall Street, Dudley, from 7.30pm.

Ken Dodd's views and proposal are expected to be discussed as well as giving people an update with the latest on the campaign. It comes just weeks after entertainment campaign Events that Rok came forward to hold discussions with Dudley Council about taking over the theatre. Both parties are remaining tight-lipped about the discussions at the moment.

Dudley Council is pressing ahead with planning applications associated with a proposal to demolish the 1938-built venue. A car park would be put in its place with longer term proposals to create a new attraction for Dudley Zoo on the site.

Veteran comedian Ken Dodd has pledged his support for the campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome

Move to re-open route to all traffic

A CONSULTATION has been launched on plans to open up a main route through Dudley town centre to all traffic for the first time in 12 years.

Around 160 residents and businesses have been sent letters outlining the £500,000 scheme, which has been proposed to help boost the town's regeneration.

Currently only buses and taxis can use the route. Motorists wishing to drive from one side of King Street to the other are diverted in a loop around the Flood Street car parks.

Under the proposals, the road will be re-opened to all traffic, which the council says will have improve access to the town centre including the Churchill shopping precinct.

It will also allow businesses to make the most of passing trade, bosses said.

New lay-bys for buses would be introduced as part of the scheme.

The route was closed to through traffic following the opening of the by-pass in 2001.

Dudley's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Consultation forms in relation to the King Street proposals went out to around 160 occupiers in the area and people have until March 14 to return their forms."

Last of the century men

THE final member of West Bromwich Albion's 'team of the century' has died aged 89. Right-back Stan Rickaby made 205 appearances for the club, scoring twice, during five years at The Hawthorns in the 1950s.

The England international got a 1954 FA Cup-winners' medal after playing in every round before missing the final due to injury. He was the last of Albion's 1953-54 'team of the century', halted by rivals Wolves from claiming the 20th century's first League and FA Cup double.

Protest over council cuts budget

PROTESTERS gathered outside Dudley Council House as a cost-cutting budget which will see youth services slashed, parking charges rise and street lights switched off after midnight was given the go-ahead.

Around 30 members of the Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts campaign group waved placards on the steps of the building and urged the council to protect services for 'vulnerable' residents.

During a three-hour debate in the council chamber, the budget proposals for £34 million of cuts over the next three years. and a possible further £23m slashed from budgets by 2017, were passed with 42 councillors voting in favour and 25 against. A council tax freeze for 2014/15 was also approved.

Jerry Langford, spokesman for Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts, said he was concerned about the impact on services, particularly those for young people, the elderly and those with disabilities.

Finance boss Councillor Pete Lowe said the council faced 'massive financial challenges' but the authority had 'tried as far as possible to protect our services from those who need us the most.'

He explained: "We have made £42m of savings over the last three years and we propose to make £34m of further savings over the next three years. But we forecast that funding cuts will leave us with a further gap of £23m that we need to address by 2016/17. "We will not achieve this without being radical and we will come back to cabinet in July with more detailed proposals."

Among the savings are cuts to street cleaning with residents being encouraged to hold their own litter picks and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste, to save £100,000.

The council plans to start turning some street lights off after midnight to reduce energy bills by £100,000. Maintenance of parks will also be reduced to claw back £270,000. Changes will be made at some day centres and the youth service will also be scaled back.

Camera is to keep a watch in village

A CCTV camera is being installed in Gornal to combat long-running problems with anti-social behaviour at night.

Plans for the camera were first unveiled last year to tackle groups gathering in Abbey Road causing a nuisance to residents and traders working into the evening.

It is hoped the equipment will be up-and-running within the next week.

The camera will be linked to a control centre in Sedgley so police can continuously monitor the village.

Councillorson Monday said funding from the council, police and an outside grant had brought £31,000 investmentto the village for the scheme.

A previous camera in the village was d removed as it did not meet requirements and had not been replaced.

There had been concerns the project had stalled due to the amount of time since approval was given.

Gornal councillor Stuart Turner said: "Preparatory work to install the camera has now started and the camera will be up-and-running shortly. It has taken some time. The previous camera did not meet requirements and we will now have a state-of-the-art camera which will be linked directly to the CCTV network at Sedgley police station."

Petition on knife crime

A PETITION calling for immediate prison sentences to be given to people caught carrying knives is being launched by an MP to mark the anniversary of the fatal stabbing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins on a Birmingham bus.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris wants a stronger approach to people caught illegally carrying blades. He has already met with Justice Sectary Minister Chris Grayling and is working with Christina's family.

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Nearly nine out of ten get first choice

THOUSANDS of parents were this week celebrating after learning their children gained a place in their first choice secondary school.

In Dudley 88 per cent of pupils were placed in their top choice school with 96.9 per centawarded one of their top three choices.

Nationally, last year just over 86 per cent were allocated their first choice school with just over 95 per cent getting one of their top three.

There was not such good news for parents in Wolverhampton with only 79.2 per cent of 2,783 children gaining a place at their first choice. In the city, 93.4 per cent of children gained a place at one of their three preferred schools.

On Monday parents and guardians received letters and emails telling them which school their child would attend from September. Applications closed last October.

Nearly nine in ten applicants choose to apply online in Staffordshire where 96 per cent of the 6,739 applications saw children placed in the first choice school, with 99 per cent given one in their top three. The county topped the national rankings for the fifth year in a row.

The most popular schools in Dudley were Bishop Milner, Earls High School in Halesowen, Ellowes Hall Sports College in Dudley and Summerhill School in Kingswinford.

Dudley children's services chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "There will always be an element of disappointment for some families, particularly where they have selected popular schools at some distance from their home.

"However, whichever school the child attends in Dudley, I am confident that they will be educated to the highest standard."

Cannabis man avoids prison by 'a whisker'

A BAR doorman behind a cannabis factory has escaped a prison sentence by a 'whisker' after friends and family showed support.

Simon Wood, aged 38, of Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, has been made subject to a four-month night curfew and ordered to do 240 hours of unpaid work.

He told police he ran the cannabis factory in an industrial unit in Wordsley to raise money after having run up a gambling debt. He handed himself in after officers discovered 55 plants in July.

Epidemic

After pleading guilty to production of cannabis in January, Wood was given a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week

Recorder Keith Raynor said: "The West Midlands has a cannabis epidemic going on.You were involved in a production of cannabis capable of producing significant quantities. You have come within a whisker of going to prison."

Police carried out the raid on the unit off High Street on July 2 after residents complained about a strong smell. The plants were growing in four rooms. Herbal cannabis was found drying in one room.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said the estimated value of the cannabis ranged from £21,000 to £52,000. She added: "The defendant said he had borrowed money from the travelling community and, having gambled and lost the money, had grown the plants to repay the debt."

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, said his client worked as a doorman and olunteered at a boxing club.

Recorder Raynor said he had read letters of support for Wood from employers, friends and family. He added: "Don't ever get involved in this again."

Officers in support of Islam centre

PLANS to open an Islamic education centre at the site of an empty Stourbridge pub have been recommended for approval.

Councillors will make the final decision on the scheme proposed for the Old Bell pub in Lye on Monday

A charitable trust known as the Islamic Community and Education Centre wants to transform the building, which would hostclasses teaching the Qur'an and work with nearby schools.

Rashid Aziz has submitted the proposals to the change on behalf of the Islamic Community and Education Centre organisation. The application is for a change for use from a pub to community centre.

The council has received 31 letters of support for the redevelopment as well as a petition containing 372 signatures in favour of the scheme, along with a supporting letter from Chapel Street Medical Centre.

Planning officers at Dudley Council have backed the project saying the change of use was 'acceptable'.

Mr Aziz says they want to raise awareness of cultural diversity with schools.

New look for trainee optician

Matt Lenton loses his locks thanks to manager Steph Oliver and optical assistant Chloe Reece

A TRAINEE optician has had his luxurious locks completely chopped for a good cause.

Matt Lenton's colleagues at Specsavers in Castle Street, Dudley, had fun shaving his bouffant in front of amused customers in the store.

The 20-year-old, from Cheslyn Hay, was doing the fundraiser for the Georgina cancer unit at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

He said: "My hair was quite long. I got it cut quite often because it grows quite fast, but I only have it trimmed. This was a grade one all over.

"It was too long just to put the clippers through, so a few of my colleagues cut a bit off first, and then shaved it.

"It's very chilly now I've had it done."

Matt, who has been training as a dispensing optician for around two years at the store, has managed to raise around £120 via the stunt held at a makeshift salon set up in the store.

Opinions of 2,500 given on the cuts

AROUND 2,500 residents had their say on which services they value the most in a budget consultation.

Over recent months finance chiefs in Dudley have been tackling the issue of setting a budget with significantly reduced national funding and held the three month consultation to give local people their chance to contribute.

Online

And the consultation, which was predominantly carried out online, attracted 2,488 responses.

The full report of the results went before a meeting of the council's cabinet last month.

The consultation asked people to let the council know which services they most value with refuse collection and recycling, litter and street cleansing, services for older people and child protection among those cited as the most important.

Council bosses said they were delighted with the huge response which was boosted by the creation of an e-bulletin which sent directly to residents subscribed to the free service.

Rider thrown from moped

A MOPED rider was thrown from his bike after crashing into a tree. He was found by paramedics around 32ft from his bike in Gervase Drive in Dudley.

They were called to the incident last week. The victim, aged in his 20s, had suffered a 'nasty' leg injury, the ambulance service said.

A spokesman added: "On arrival, the ambulance staff found a bike that had suffered very significant damage after a collision with a tree.

"The rider was about 10 metres away from the bike when crews arrived and was disorientated."

Ale rock 'n' roll

A ROCK music beer festival is being held at a Dudley pub. Mick O'Neill, licensee of The Court House in New Street, is selling ales named after bands or songs. More than 25 on offer until Sunday include Brunswick's Black Sabbath and Spire's Whiter Shade of Pale.

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Housing hope as pubs are sold off

TWO closed-down pubs hit by vandalism have been sold in deals worth a total of £350,000.

The Hill Tavern and The Freebodies Tavern, a mile apart in Kates Hill, both fell victim to the recession more than three years ago, and now stand boarded up and empty.

The Hill Tavern, in Watsons Green Road, was damaged by two fires in 2011, while the Freebodies Tavern, in St Johns Road, has suffered vandalism.

But from this week both have new owners following their sale at an auction in Birmingham, with The Hill Tavern going for £180,000 and The Freebodies Tavern at £170,000.

While the auctioneer CP Bigwood will not reveal the winning bidders until next month, it is believed housing developers have snapped the two pubs up.

Kates Hill Councillor Shaukat Ali said: "I think it will be unlikely they will be reopened as pubs given the severe damage to each building and the struggle of the trade. Considering they have been subject to planning proposals for houses in the past, I'd expect some kind of housing development is in mind for both."

Council seal deal to boost Waterfront

COUNCILLORS blamed the Coaltion Government ministers for delays over the regeneration of an ailing business district as they sealed a deal aimed at welcoming new firms to the site.

Around a third of the office and business space at The Waterfront, near Merry Hill shopping centre, is empty after many firms pulled out of the Brierley Hill site. But the once-thriving business centre could now be revived under plans approved by councillors hoping to reverse the impact of the economic downturn and create 1,600 jobs.

Plans were recently passed to create the Dudley Business Investment Zone at The Waterfront with incentives to boost the area which also was once a top night out destination with many bars and clubs.

It is hoped the zone, which will last for five years, will entice new businesses and existing firms at the site to expand by offering a two-year break in business rates – with landlords and council sharing the expected £550,000 bill.

Opposition councillors did raise concerns over delays on a similar scheme muted by former council leader Councillor Les Jones in 2012.

Tory group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "It was Councillor Jones who began this idea of a business investment zone at that area. He chaired a meeting of the cabinet in March 2012 and since then very little has happened and it is still at the report stage.

"Within that time the skyline of Dudley has changed with new developments courtesy of Dudley College. Perhaps they should ask the college and other partners for assistance as under this administration progress on regeneration for major businesses has slowed almost to a halt."

Dudley Council regeneration boss, Councillor Judy Foster, responded saying delays over the scheme were exacerbated by Government ministers. Councillor Foster said: "We are in the position of having to come up with our own scheme because. of the 24 zones that the Coalition Government identified , they did not deem Dudley — as one of the largest boroughs in the country — to be worthy of the investment."

Residents preparing for new fight on waste plant

RESIDENTS have vowed to continue to fight plans for a waste plant in Brierley Hill, as they began to prepare for a planning inquiry.

Clean Power Properties has lodged an appeal following Dudley Council's decision to refuse permission for its proposals for the plant in Moor Street.

More than 60 people turned out to a public meeting organised by the Brierley Hill Say No To Waste site group.

by Heather Large

The group is rallying support for a second time after more than 350 people signed a petition against the waste plant before the plans were thrown out by councillors in August.

Residents are concerned that the plant, which would process around 195,000 tonnes of mixed waste including food each year, will mean odours and increased traffic.

Tim Lees, 63, of Seagers Lane, told the meeting at Insight House in Pearson Street, that residents had until March 18 to make written representations to the Planning Inspectorate ahead of a planning inquiry, which is expected to take place in June. He said the group was keen to have a residents' representative at the inquiry.

"What we would like to do it put a representative from the group forward at the planning inquiry to represent residents," he said. "They would be able to put forward our case and cross examine witnesses put forward by Clean Power and by the council. It would add a great deal more weight to our campaign."

Committee chairman and former Brierley Hill councillor Rosemary Tomkinson said there was 'a huge amount of support' for the campaign.

She added: "It's a dreadful thing to have near houses. I'm all for recycling more as I hate waste. But this is the wrong place for it. I hate the thought of walking out of my door and smelling this plant."

Mark Everson, of Moor Street, was concerned about increased traffic. "The roads can't cope with the traffic now," he said.

The group is planning to hold another public meeting in the coming weeks.

Clean Power Propertieshas defended its plans. It says the plant would create 30 jobs.

It said the facility would generate electricity for up to 10,000 homes a year and has also insisted the plant would not create bad odours.

Lenny looks back to 70s

LENNY Henry has written a one-off drama for the BBC based on his teenage years. The Dudley-born comic said he was excited about bringing the fiction-based-on-fact story to the screen.

Danny And The Human Zoo, likely to be screened next year, tells the story a young entertainer growing up in a Jamaican family in 1970s Dudley.

Henry, who got his big break doing impressions on TV talent show New Faces, last month picked up a best actor prize for his dramatic role in stage play Fences. In October he was awarded the Freedom of Dudley borough.

Glamorous Miss

PART-TIME dance teacher 22-year-old Shelley-Marie Sumner from Bentley, Walsall, was named Miss Black Country 2014.

During an evening of glitz and glamour, she beat 20 other young women to win the title at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton.

Staff on award shortlist

STAFF at an adventure playground are on the shortlist to receive a national award.

Sycamore Adventure centre, at Old Park Farm Estate in Dudley, has been included on the list for the Outstanding Playwork Provision category of the Playwork Awards.

The awards recognise the importance of providing quality play opportunities for children and identifies people and organisations that have made a noticeable difference.

Dudley Zoo Birds Section Leader, Kellie Piper, installs some of thebird boxes

All of a twitter about bird life

DOZENS of bird boxes will be put up around Dudley Zoo's 40-acre site thanks to the decorating skills of young visitors.

During half-term children helped Discovery Centre staff paint the bird boxes, which keepers will fix to trees around the zoo's wooded hillside to enhance the site's population of native birds.

The activity coincided with National Nest Box Week and children were able to find out more about some of the native species spotted around the zoo site.

Birds section leader Kellie Piper said: "Our free bird box decorating activity has been really popular with young visitors and we've got lots ready to start putting up across the site in time for the breeding season.

"We've got several different species of small wild birds around the zoo site that will really benefit from these boxes, including blue tits, great tits, chaffinches, sparrows and nuthatches. We've made sure they've all been painted in greens and browns so that they will blend in to the background and make sure that the birds have nice hideaway to nest in.

NEWS in brief

Bulk collection prices are frozen

DUDLEY Council has confirmed that it has frozen the cost of its bulky waste collection service for the next financial year.

The council provides collections for large items that residents cannot take to the household waste recycling centre themselves. Prices remain £15 for small collections, £25 for medium collections and £40 for large. White goods collections cost £8.70 for smaller items such as microwaves or £17.60 for larger items such as a fridge or freezer.

Call 0300 555 2345.

Swap goods and watch a movie

A SWAP shop and film night will take place in Stourbridge on Saturday night. It will start at 6.30pm at Friends Meeting House in Scotts Road.

People can bring along usable unwanted items such as clothes, books and toys to swap.

Food donations are also welcome for the Black Country Food Bank.

The film, which will start at 7.30pm, is entitled Chasing Ice.

For details call the Transition Stourbridge group on (01384) 351414.

Group seeking Fairtrade status

TASTING sessions and cookery demonstrations took place as part of celebrations to mark Fairtrade Fortnight.

Sedgley Fairtrade Initiative took to the town's Co-op store to showcase the range of items available.

Members, backed by MP Ian Austin, aim to achieve Fairtrade Status for Sedgley.

Engineers take continental trip

ENGINEERING apprentices will be heading to Germany. BCTG in Oldbury is taking apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Leipzig. Another 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock Ltd in Tipton will work at Doosan Babcock Energy plants in Germany and Poland this month.

Going bananas

DUDLEY museums, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley Museum and Red House Glass Cone are running free banana trails. Children completing the trail get a treat. The trails run until Sunday.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THIS is not only the quote of the week but possibly of the century. The stand-in prime minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk tells his people: "We are on the brink of a disaster and this is the government of political suiciders! So welcome to hell." Now, that's what I call an election promise.

□□□□□□□□

MEN and women are not always interested in the same things. Most football fans are male. A friend who attended an evening with "Psychic Sally" Morgan reports only a handful of blokes in a theatre packed with women. If the sexes have different leisure interests, why should women have the same career interests as men, especially when the career in question is notoriously laddish and aggressive? There are very few female stand-up comedians, yet the BBC has announced an end to all-male comedy panel shows. Dara O Briain, host of Mock the Week (BBC2) warns that female panellists may come to be regarded as "the token woman." Just like politics.

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A FRIEND reports that not all visitors are impressed with Birmingham's new £200 million library. As he climbed the stark staircase with its white walls and strip lighting, he heard one of a group of lads complain: "This is boring, innit? It's like being back in prison."

□□□□□□□□

WHAT makes a middle-aged father of four children truly happy? Time with the kids? A relaxing stroll with his wife? Seeing the new baby take its first step? Nah. Piers Morgan declared in a column two weeks ago: "I'm never happier than when bombing down Sunset Boulevard from my Beverly Hills home in my Aston Martin and Prada shades." This, from a man of 48. Morgan plumbs extraordinary depths of shallowness. His weekly dispatches from LA are an endless list of celebrities he's met, swanky restaurants he's dined in and beautiful women he has allegedly charmed. Now it's falling apart. His CNN chat show is to be axed amid dismal ratings. For a man who adores being among the rich and famous, the future looks dull. I never thought I'd write this but I feel sorry for Piers Morgan.

□□□□□□□□

OUR new gravel drive, laid only a few days ago, has been turned into a lunar landscape by badgers digging for grubs. The badgers moved into the nearest wood at about the time we moved into Chateau Rhodes, 30 years ago this summer. As the badgers have prospered, the crunchy, delicious hedgehogs have vanished.

□□□□□□□□

I NEVER thought I'd get nostalgic for the 1980s but a rare showing of the John Cleese comedy Clockwise (ITV3) took us back to 1986 and reminded us how much life has changed, sometimes for the worse. Back then we had some truly awful cars (remember the Austin 1100?) but glorious open roads. We had disgusting, vandalised phone boxes but everybody was much slimmer. I interviewed Cleese at the launch of Clockwise. All went well until I mentioned Monty Python's Life of Brian. "Ah, the cleverest thing we ever did," beamed Cleese. To the dismay of the PR people, we spent the rest of the interview chatting about Life of Brian, not Clockwise. But Clockwise did produce one terrific quote. It comes as Cleese's character, the headmaster Brian Stimpson, realises all is not quite lost in his desperate attempt to reach a conference in Norwich. Slumped at the side of the road he tells his young travelling companion: "It's not the despair, Laura. I can take the despair. It's the hope I can't stand." We all know that feeling.

□□□□□□□□

I REFERRED a few days ago to the process of sorting out the rights to oil and gas before Scotland votes on independence. A reader suggests they are leaving it to the last minute and hoping for the best, in the belief that it'll be oil rights on the night.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

School meal prices to rise by ten pence

COUNCIL bosses say they have been forced to increase the price of school meals in Dudley because of rising costs of food, labour and fuel bills.

From April 24 the price charged for a meal in all primary and special schools across the borough will increase by 10p, from £1.90 to £2.

The cost of individually priced food items in primary and secondary schools will also rise under proposals due to be considered next week.

Cabinet member for children's services and lifelong learning Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "Food prices are going up everyone knows that so we have little choice but to increase the price of school meals.

Limit

"However, what we have tried to do is limit the increase as much as possible. The last thing we want to do is price children and their families out of having a school meal which is why the increase is what is.

"It is unfortunate we have to raise prices but there is little choice."

The price of an adult meal will go up from £3 to £3.15.

The increase will bring in an estimated £200,000 per annum which the authority says will help it cover the costs involves.

Councillor Crumpton said the amount being asked for was in line with other local authorities. The increase is based on a 5.2 per cent rise, which includes inflation to cover increases in food and overheads.

Schools have delegated budgets and have the option to implement their own pricing if they wish.

Sandwell Council and Birmingham City Council charge £2 for school meals.

Jail for bus thug who kicked woman in face

A THUG has been locked up for a year after a savage attack on a bus passenger that almost cost his female victim the sight of an eye.

Marinus Howell hurled a can of drink down the aisle, hitting an elderly woman and soaking passenger Sandy Young.

by Simon Stone

Howell reacted when Miss Young called him an 'idiot,' Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 33-year-old father-of-four put down a child he was holding and walked through the 276 bus towards Miss Young.

Miss Cathlyn Orchard, prosecuting, explained: "She thought she was going to be struck by him and lashed out, hitting him in the face.

Threw

"He then picked her up and threw her to the floor before repeatedly kicking her in the face. He finally stopped when a woman, who was travelling with him, intervened."

Howell, of Kemberton Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, had boarded the bus at the Merry Hill Centre and was sitting at the back.

Howell hurled the can after he became involved in a dispute between the driver and another passenger at a Netherton stop on September 25, 2012.

The defendant got off the bus before police reached the scene but was arrested soon afterwards.

He had been denying the offence, claiming self-defence, and only changed his plea to guilty to the assault on the day his proposed trial was due to start.

Due to his attack a blood clot formed in one of Miss Young's eyes and the clot had to be removed at hospital.

Howell was jailed for a year. Judge John Wait told him: "You involved yourself in an argument at the front of the bus that had nothing to do with you before carrying out a serious unprovoked assault in a public place.

"You kicked the victim in the face close to her eye. It is fortunate for her, and you, that she did not lose her sight as a result of this.

"She suffered an unpleasant injury which had a serious psychological effect on her. Six months later she was still unable to travel on buses."

Bonus — that's Asda nice

THOUSANDS of Asda staff across the West Midlands are sharing a £2.8 million bonus pot with workers at the store in Coseley getting 'superbonus' payouts of up to £500 each for beating performance targets.

Nationwide Asda is paying out a bumper £27.8 million in annual bonuses to all its 142,600 staff who have worked for the supermarket chain for more than six months.

The payout sees full time staff working at stores and distribution depots receive up to £320 each but 14,000 at Asda's best performing stores enjoy the 'superbonus' of up to £500 after beating their performance targets for the year.

Hearing dogs have a ball

Hearing dog for the deaf Bruno with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch

THE Mayor of Dudley is inviting people to attend his annual charity ball.

It will be raising money for Councillor Alan Finch's chosen charities – Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support in Dudley.

Tickets have gone on sale for the event, which takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Friday, March 28.

Councillor Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward on Dudley Council, said: "Both of these charities do an amazing job in providing support to people in need.

"The Mayor's ball is always a grand occasion."

The ball, which starts at 7.15pm, includes a four course meal, cocktails, a disco and band Ultimate DeAmour. Tickets cost £34 and are available on 01384 815211 or email christine.skelding@dudley.gov.uk website.

Scaling down a plan for new store

A SUPERMARKET that is planned for Kingswinford has been downscaled,with fresh plans submitted for a smaller store and fewer parking spaces.

Morrisons wants to replace its existing buildings in Stallings Lane with the new store. Planning permission was originally granted last February.

But now parts of the scheme have been reconsidered and new proposals are going before Dudley Council.

Under revised plans the sales floor will be on one level, rather than having a raised store level served by a trolley escalator or lifts.

The floorspace has been reduced from 6,438sq m to 5,932sq m. Around 3,414sq m will now be used for retail rather than the 3,756sq m under the original scheme.

There will now be 379 car parking spaces rather than 407. The store entrance has also been changed to allow a cafe to be created .

The old store will be demolished and the new store built on adjacent land. Around 368 staff are expected to be employed at the new store, 120 full-time. The existing store has 279 workers, 111 full-time.

The National Service days

TALES of National Service, when all healthy men aged 17 to 21 were called up for a stint in the armed forces, will be recounted when Stourbridge Historical Society hosts a talk,by Ed Shore.

It will be held at the Wollaston Room, Stourbridge Town Hall, on March 20 at 7.30pm. Mr Shore, who lives in Hagley, will describe his own experiences and from others who did National Service.

National Service lasted from 1949 until 1960. Those called up served 18 months, later extended to two years.

For more information call (01384) 274014.

Business sale

OFFICE cleaning and catering business Initial Facilities, including a base in Dudley employing around 100, is changing hands for £250 million. It is being sold to Interserve by Rentokil Initial. The deal is subject to agreement of Interserve shareholders on March 17.

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£18k bill for cost to consult the public

THE cost of a consultation over proposals to shut Dudley's walk-in health centre is £18,500.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wants to shut the clinic and replace it with an urgent care centre at Russells Hall Hospital. More than 3,000 people gave their views on the plans to close the walk-in centre at the Holly Hall Clinic, Stourbridge Road.

The CCG is now working on more detailed proposals for the urgent care centre.

Members of Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee asked for the costs of the consultation to be revealed.

A report says that the cost of consultation activities carried out by the CCG was £6,500. This covered the cost of publishing documents, meetings, web developments and advertising. That figure did not cover the time committed by CCG staff, managers and GPs throughout the consultation, which was launched in October.

The CCG also commissioned a report and survey from Healthwatch Dudley, which cost just under £12,000.

The CCG report stated: "It is felt that this represents good value."

Prestigious college award

DUDLEY College is he first in the West Midlands to gain a prestigious science and technology honour, as building work gathers pace on its new campus.

The college is celebrating after gaining the award for the quality of its teaching and training.

The £8 million Dudley Advance is to open this autumn and will be home to manufacturing and engineering technology.

Bosses said that the STEM standard from the Innovation Institute NEF, together with the college's advanced technology centre, will boost its reputation.

Lunch with song

ENTERTAINERS will host a charity lunch in Brierley Hill on Wednesday.

The event is for Age UK Dudley and takes place at the Copthorne Hotel from 11.30am. Comedians and a singer will perform.

Tickets are £15 with meal, call (01384) 354668.

Disgraced treasurer told to repay charity

Thief — Anthony Boswell

A ROYAL British Legion treasurer stole more than almost £1,600 from his branch. A judge said a lot of it went through his lungs and liver in cigarettes and booze.

Anthony Boswell, 69, wrecked his good name by dipping into the coffers of the former Lye and Wollescote Royal British Legion, which was wound up last year due to dwindling membership.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told him he should use the £30 a week he spends each week on drink and cigarettes to repay cash to the charity and court penalties — a total of £2,036.99.

Boswell, of Wassell Road, Wollescote, had denied theft of £1,676.99 belonging to the RBL but changed his plea after none of his defence witnesses turned up at the trial at Dudley Magistrates Court.

The court heard the offence happened when Boswell was treasurer of the Lye and Wollescote branch between December 2010 and June 2013.

Boswell was given a two-month community order, during which time he must wear a tag to monitor his movements to make sure he sticks to a 6pm to 6am curfew.

He was also ordered to pay back all of the money he stolen from the British Legion, as well as £300 court costs and a £60 victim surcharge. The theft came to light in an audit after the branch was closed.

Mr Harbinder Gahi, defending, said Boswell had spent 30 years doing unpaid voluntary work for the Legion, including organising charity events. "His name will now be tarnished," added Mr Gahir.

Boswell claimed to have distributed the money to good causes but there was no evidence to prove it.

Judge Wilkinson told him: "This was a tremendous breach of trust against a charity that helps our fighting men and women. For 65 years you led a blameless life, giving your time freely to the British Legion. You have wrecked it all.

"You lined your own pockets. I have seen in court papers how much you smoke and drink per week. A lot went through your lungs and your liver."

Thief stole car's catalytic converter to fund drug use

A THIEF who targeted a car for its catalytic converter has been handed a suspended sentence.

Officers were called to reports of two men acting suspiciously near cars in Cambridge Road, Dudley, at around 12.50pm on January 27, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

Anthony Price and another man were found by officers sitting in a Volvo on the same road and discovered a catalytic converter stolen from a Peugeot in the same street and a variety of tools that have been used in similar thefts.

Guilty

At an earlier hearing the 33-year-old from Rookery Park, Pensnett, pleaded guilty to theft from a motor vehicle.

Mrs Maxine Jarrousse-Jones, prosecuting, said: "Officers found a catalytic converter, which they were able to match to a Peugeot in the road. The cuts on the catalytic converter and exhaust are so unique they are like a fingerprint."

Officers also found two car jacks, a pipe cutter and mole grips that are commonly used in the theft of the converters, which contain precious metals.

Stephen Hamblett, defending , said that Price had taken the catalytic converter to fund his drug habit.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "These offences are becoming more and more prevalent. They are costing private motorists and insurance companies a huge amount of money."

Price was given a 12 week prison sentence suspended for 12 months,12 month supervision order with a drug rehabilitation requirement, was ordered to pay £80 victim surcharge, £85 costs and £100 compensation.

Witnesses urged to help hunt for attacker

DOG walkers and children who were out playing could hold vital clues in the hunt for a sex attacker alleged to have launched an assault on a teenager in Quarry Bank.

Police launched an investigation after the 15-year-old girl returned home and reported that she had been beaten up and indecently attacked during a night out on Saturday, February 22.

Officers cordoned off an area known as Hammer Park, between Quarry Bank High Street and Cradley Forge, after the alleged attack. Police say the girl had been out with friends in the area around Quarry Bank High Street, Lyde Green and Colley Lane between 7pm and 9pm.

Detective Constable Simon Andrews said: "We know that this group of youngsters passed by a few people in and around Quarry Bank and Cradley on Saturday night. Those people might be able to help us."

A 17-year-old boy was arrested but later released on police bail.

Fresh veg helps Edith reach milestone

Healthy outlook — 101-year-old Edith Wood celebrates surrounded by her family in Stourbridge

WHEN she was born the Kaiser ruled Germany and the Tsar ruled Russia and during her long life the world was rocked by two world wars, the atomic bomb was invented and man stepped on the moon.

Now, as she marks her 101st birthday, Edith Wood says the secret of her good health are her green fingers — gardening skills which allowed to eat fresh vegetables for much of her life, says her daughter Rosemary Priest.

Mother-of-two Mrs Priest made the trip from the other side of the world from her home in Australia to be with her mother on her milestone birthday.

"She had been eating a diet of home-grown vegetables since before the organic movement started," said Mrs Priest.

Family

Mrs Wood, a great-grandmother-of-two, marked her big day surrounded by three generations of her family including two of her great-grandchildren, Saul, aged 6, and Marnie, 4.

The family had a party and then shared tea and cake with other residents at Tudor Manor care home, where Edith now lives.

Mrs Priest, a retired university administrator in Adelaide, said the family had made Edith a memento book as her birthday present with lots of old family photographs.

She added she always pictured her mum gardening or making something as she has also been a keen dressmaker. "She has always been creative," said Mrs Priest of her mother, whose husband Geoffrey died in 1994.

NEWS in brief

Saxon sword on show at museum

THERE are just three weeks left to see a Saxon sword on loan at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

The Dudley Council-run museum has been hosting the Saxons and Vikings exhibition since 2011 but it has only recently been given a short-term loan of a real Saxon sword by a private collector.

These thousand-year-old weapons are incredibly rare as iron objects from that period are very fragile.

The exhibition also features a replica Viking longboat.

Bargain outfits at wedding event

PREPARATIONS are being made for a wedding fair which for the first time will offer brides and grooms-to-be the chance to buy a second hand outfit.

Once-worn designer and off-the-peg bride, groom, bridesmaid and page boy clothes will be sold at Priory Hall in Dudley on Saturday, March 15. Some outfits will be modelled at fashion shows held during the event.

For more details on Priory Hall open day wedding exhibition, from 10am to 4pm, call (01384) 815373.

Time is running out for taxi prizes

THE deadline for nominations for Dudley's Taxi Base of the Year award has been extended.

The competition, run by Dudley Council, aims to celebrate good service provided by the borough's hackney carriage and private hire taxi firms. This is the second year the contest has been run. Nominations by March 14 via www.dudley.gov.uk website

Going bananas in Fairtrade Fortnight

A MAYOR went bananas for Fairtrade when he visited a supermarket to find out about the campaign.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, visited Sainsbury's in Amblecote to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

Bananas are the focus of this year's campaign which wants a better deal for banana farmers.

School extension

PLANS have been lodged for a single-storey extension at a primary school.

Milking Bank Primary in Dudley have submitted proposals to Dudley Council planners to create a meeting room.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

HOW depressing that Apprentice runner-up Luisa Zissman has had her Ferrari vandalised. And even more depressing that some idiot on Twitter suggested it was a form of 'karma' for having the effrontery to drive such a vehicle.

Are some people just born with a chip on the shoulder, or does society just turn them that way?

In typically robust fashion, Zissman replied: "I hope when you buy one someday because you've worked hard someone does it to you!"

But the chances of such people ever working hard for anything are about as likely as Helen Flanagan becoming president of Mensa.

Still, I surely can't be the only one who is wondering how a baker who did not even win Lord Sugar's prized investment is now in the Ferrari league.

That is a lot of cupcakes.

❒❒❒❒❒

DAYBREAK, the ITV breakfast television service which shares its name with the old TV-am early morning news show from the 1980s, is in line for another revamp.

It is now going be renamed, er Good Morning Britain, after another TV-am breakfast show from 30 years ago, and is going to be presented by Susanna Reid, who appears to have been poached from the BBC on the basis that she is good at ballroom dancing.

Talk about back to the 80s. I suppose we should be glad that nobody thought it a good idea to bring back Gyles Brandreth and his garish sweaters, but it does highlight a lack of creativity and original thinking. And if they really do think that 1983 represented some golden era in breakfast broadcasting, there is one crucial ingredient they have overlooked.

Let's have Roland Rat doing the paper reviews. Now that would have people tuning in.

❒❒❒❒❒

NEWCASTLE United manager Alan Pardew is in hot water after going head-to-head with Hull City midfielder David Meyler.

His touchline contretemps has landed him with a £100,000 fine. Or a weekend, as Wayne Rooney would call it.

Personally, I think he has been a bit hard done by. After all, a spot of head-to-head contact is usually seen as a gesture of affection up in horse-fighter land.

And I'm sure he was really only offering a coaching lesson in ball control.

❒❒❒❒❒

JUST 10 days ago, glassy-eyed Russian president Vladimir Putin was the smiling host of the winter Olympic games. The following weekend, he appeared to be gearing up for a full-scale invasion of the Crimea.

Didn't somebody once say that a week was a long time in politics?

Lord Bilston, Dennis Turner seen in his robes

With Annie Kemmies, 79, at Cradley Labour club in 1974

With his Honorary Freeman of the City scroll in 2006

Lord who never forgot his roots

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT looks back at the life of former MP and peer Lord Bilston who has died at 71

IT is hard to imagine another politician more deserving of the title 'man of the people' than Dennis Turner.

Even when elevated to the House of Lords, he took the town of his birth as his name, Baron Bilston.

And when he served as MP for Wolverhampton South East around 300 people took to the streets at the end of his first term of office to campaign for his re-election.

The crusade succeeded, with the number of votes for Dennis Turner in 1992 almost double those of his Conservative rival.

Fast forward 22 years and it would be unthinkable, in the post-expenses scandal 'they're all the same' cynicism of 2014 that any MP would have such a strong following.

But Dennis Turner, honoured last year with a Famous Sons and Daughters of Wolverhampton award, was from a different era, when more working class people were chosen by their communities to represent them in Westminster. He was an extremely well-liked politician, for whom successive Express & Star lobby reporters based in the House of Commons developed a fondness and friendship.

He was born, raised and educated in Bradley. And he lived there all his life.

He would become a staunch union man who believed strongly in a fair deal for working people.

He was educated at St Martin's C of E School, in Slater Street, then at Stonefield Secondary (later Hall Green Comprehensive, then Bilston High School and now South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy), in Prosser Street.

He left to work at Thomas Perry steel roll makers, in Highfields Road, as an office boy making tea and doing chores, then studied office accounting at Bilston College before joining the Betterware kitchen equipment company as a salesman when he was 17.

The newly-elected MP for Wolverhampton South East seen in 1987

Going door to door in the 1950s and 1960s, and seeing the poor conditions of slum housing, gave Lord Bilston the interest he would have in politics for the rest of his life and the belief that he could help to make things better.

In 1964 he moved into the Bilston steel industry, beginning as a stocktaker, and later as transport controller.

And two years later, he was first elected to the Wolverhampton Borough Council at the age of 22. He was chosen to be the deputy leader of the council in 1980, a position he held for six years until his decision to stand for Parliament. Lord Bilston also served on the now-defunct West Midlands County Council from 1973 until 1986.

He chaired the Joint Trade Union Action Committee which had fought the long and ultimately doomed battle to stop the closure of Bilston Steelworks. He was at the forefront of the five-year fight to save the works from the axe in the late 1970s, and was devastated when it closed with the loss of thousands of jobs. "It was traumatic to see the demise of the steel industry," he once recalled. "I don't think I will ever see such a catastrophic effect on the people of this area."

So popular was he among his political peers that in 1987, when he first won the Wolverhampton South East seat, even members of the Tory party had contributed to his campaign fund. As a Wolverhampton councillor at the time he was given a China piggy bank by Conservative Paddy Bradley when he resigned his seat to begin his campaign.

He continued to fight hard for his people. In 1993 he gathered 5,000 signatures on two petitions, 2,500 on each, campaigning against plans to impose VAT on fuel and another against threats to strip pensioners of free travel passes.

Identity

Just a few years ago his time and power was called upon again when Bilston itself looked to be bureaucratically torn apart in a review of Parliamentary boundaries.

The town was set to be represented by four different MPs, something that risked its very identity.

Dennis, along with his brother Bert, a councillor and at the time mayor of Wolverhampton, led the charge. They took a coachload of people to a Boundary Commission hearing in Birmingham to plead their case. And they won.

The stroke he suffered in May 2006 affected the use of his right arm and leg, but he recovered and carried on his duties in the Lords. The following year he was granted Freedom of the City.

But despite his huge political profile he was a family man at heart. He leaves his devoted wife Pat, 67, two grown up children, Brendon and Jenny, and a granddaughter, Bella. Last year, the old Labour firebrand Dennis Skinner highlighted Dennis Turner as the sort of person that voters just do not see enter politics anymore and sadly, will not again.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FOOTBALL Association chief Bert Millichip called for urgent meetings with the Home Secretary following disgraceful scenes of violence from England fans in France. Former West Bromwich Albion chairman Mr Millichip said he was appalled by the behaviour of the fans which left 15 people needing hospital treatment, two of them seriously ill.

TONY Benn was back in Parliament less than a year after losing his Bristol seat. The former cabinet minister won a by-election in Chesterfield. But Labour leader Neil Kinnock's joy at retaining Chesterfield was tempered by reports Mr Benn was already set to rock the boat, demanding new policies stripping the Queen of her constitutional powers, removing the Prime Minister's right to appoint and remove cabinet ministers, and abolishing the House of Lords.

1994

A PETROL station attendant used his mobile phone to dial for freedom after armed raiders locked him in a toilet.Two gun-wielding robbers forced Arshad Hussain into a toilet at the Elf Service Station in Moxley before making off with nearly £2,000. Mr Hussain used his mobile to call police.

A PILOT died at the controls of his cargo plane after its engines failed. The four-engined Vickers Viscount plummeted out of the sky in blizzards at Stowe-by-Chartley, between Stafford and Uttoxeter. The pilot had battled to avoid hitting homes.

DETECTIVES excavating the house of Gloucester builder Fred West believed they had discovered the corpses of two women who disappeared during the 1970s. One of them was identified as former Wolverhampton schoolgirl Shirley Robinson. A third body was believed to be West's 16-year-old daughter, last seen in 1987. West, aged 52, was charged with three murders.

2004

AN edgy play was causing controversy. Everyman - An Immorality Play, focused on holidaymakers in a Spanish hotel, and featured foul language and female nudity. But the Conservative group leader of Wolverhampton Council, Councillor Mrs Paddy Bradley, was not impressed by the production due at the city's Arena Theatre. "There is no respect left for life or women's bodies in the world any more," she said.

FORMER Walsall schoolboy Steven Knight was waving the flag for the West Midlands at the Oscars but he missed out on one of the famous statuettes when his play Dirty Pretty Things was pipped to the post.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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LETTERS

Estate parking permits unfair to residents

WITH reference to the proposals for a parking permit system on the Russells Hall Estate in the locality of Russells Hall Hospital. The proposed permit schedule is an insult to the people on the estate, expecting people to pay for a parking bay outside their own property for the sum of £95 per annum.

Hospital staff and visitors have enjoyed this privilege causing some degree of distress to residents for the past ten years or more for free. Most authorities do not charge for blue badge holder parking bays, including Dudley Council, so why should we as Dudley residents have to pay for a permit bay system. My understanding is that people living on unaffected parts of the estate will not have to pay to park by their homes, however, because we live in close proximity to the hospital we are penalised.

Charges such as those proposed under the parking permit system tend to affect the saleability of the properties should people decide to move home. The scheme proposed is an ill-thought out money-making scheme with little consideration to fairness for the local residents.

Russells Hall Hospital created the estate parking problems with the introduction of high parking charges in the first place, a money-making scheme demonstrating the greed of the local hospital. If the hospital reduced the staff and patient parking charges local street parking would be substantially alleviated.

The existing parking arrangements we have in Pearce Close appear to work fairly well and, although they could do with a few minor tweaks, I believe the existing system is much fairer to all local residents.

R B HILL
Russells Hall Estate
Dudley

The council could shop around

DUDLEY councillor Tim Crumpton concedes food prices have increased therefore we have no choice but to increase prices of school meals — parents are well aware food prices have increased.

They feel the pain every time they do a weekly shop but unlike Oliver Twist at the council they are unable to ask for more. Parents shop around until they find the best price, even if that means visiting a number of different suppliers.

An increase of 10p sounds minuscule until you consider the family with three, four or five children who will face a weekly bill of £30, £40 or £50 for school meals. Some mothers only have that to provide three meals a day for the week, 21 meals not five.

My message to Councillor Crumpton is try shopping around and sharpen up the purchasing department's negotiation skills.

G WILSON
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Tax dodgers get away as benefits cut

I THINK it's completely justified for the 27 bishops to criticise the Government over the depth of the benefit cuts.

There were grounds for reform, of course, but the scale and depths of the current cuts are not justified one bit.

Consider the consequences of these cuts causing untold misery and genuine poverty, whilst others are almost free to practise tax avoidance and, in many cases, tax evasion knowing full well the chances of repercussions are remote. These practices amount in total tax non-payments to a far greater figure than the total benefits bill annually.

Then we have Government departments, both national and local, where waste is prolific, whilst salaries for Government managerial posts are at grotesquely high levels in many instances.

I would also bring into question MPs' salaries, not to mention their expenses and perks.

It's not wide of the mark, I think, to call the scale of the benefit cuts as bordering 'genocidal', I'm sure many of those affected by the cuts would agree.

N STAMPS
Stourbridge

Long life due to a war diet?

I AM 87 years of age and my husband is 96 and we look through the obituaries in case we have missed the passing of someone we knew. What has struck us is how many are living into their 80s, 90s and even 100s. We wondered why this was.

One common factor is that they had all lived and survived the war years. Those who were in the forces had an adequate healthy diet with plenty of exercise and those who were left at home lived on wartime rations.

Cakes and pastries were very scarce, sweets and chocolates were rationed. People walked a lot more with very few cars and buses stopped running at 9pm. So if you went to the pictures or a dance, you walked home.

There were no supermarkets or places selling beefburgers, etc, and people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables.

K LEWIS
Wolverhampton

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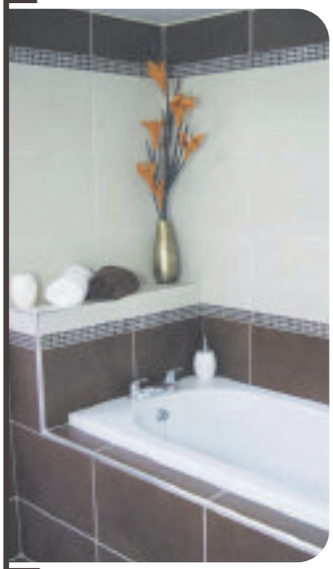

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CLUB NEWS

Birthday wishes to Doris, 90

WORDSLEY 'M' TG

THE February meeting was opened by chairman for the day Liz Hubbard who welcomed all attending, in particular three new members.

Doris Jackson was presented with a card and a basket of flowers from the guild as she turned 90, and 'Happy Birthday' was sung.

Ann Birchell gave details of the Federation St George's Day event on April 23 at Wollaston Village Hall. Lord Cobham and Pat Green are the speakers followed by a fish and chip lunch and entertainment plus tea and cakes. Cost is £7.

June 18 is the AGM. at Cardiff and a coach is being arranged. The annual lunch at The Mill is arranged for July 28 and a Harvest Lunch on October 1 at Wollaston Village Hall.

A previous speaker Mr Hook – 'Mother of Pearl' – has invited members to visit his factory in May or June.

Liz reminded members that the Monday meeting for April will be on the 14th not 21st and will be at the Richardson Hall, Lawnswood Road, Wordsley as the Community Centre was not available.

Anne gave out the quiz papers during which time members' fees were collected and refreshments served.

The next meeting is on March 17 which will be the AGM followed by a buffet of cheese and biscuits.

Pair bridge gap at annual tournament

From left, John Sheppard, Keith Perry and Michael Dainty

SEDGLEY BRIDGE CLUB

SEDGLEY Bridge Club held their annual bridge championship and the winning pair were John Sheppard and Michael Dainty.

They are pictured with the Tipton And Coseley trophies, presented to them by Keith Perry.

Sedgley Bridge Club meets every Thursday afternoon and guests and new members are always welcome.

The venue is the Sedgley and District Community Centre, Ladies Walk, Sedgley. Besides duplicate on Thursday, rubber bridge is played at the centre on a Wednesday afternoon. Friday afternoon is a learner and improvers' session.

For more information, ring Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671728.

Little known body is topic

SOCIAL CIRCLE

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed everyone to the first Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle meeting of the year.

All members were invited to consider where they wished their annual trip and luncheon to take place.

Speaker Mrs Bernie Townsend introduced her talk about the little known "Catholic Women's League Services Committee", founded by Margaret Fletcher in 1906 and which during two world wars founded huts to provide Mass, spiritual needs, and food to members of the armed services.

In 1965 the last hut closed but with the sale invested wisely and now provides help to any needy person with connections with the armed forces. This was a most eloquent and interesting talk. Her husband manned the slides.

Chris Groves gave the vote of thanks. Margaret Jones and Shirley won the raffle.

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NEWS

Senior coroner to leave after decades of service

THE man who has served the Black Country as its coroner for more than 40 years has announced his retirement.

Robin Balmain first began investigating deaths in 1972.

But he has announced that he will retire from his current position as senior coroner for the Black Country in September. He said it has been a 'great honour' to serve the area.

Mr Balmain, who is based at Smethwick Council House, first became the assistant deputy coroner for the area then known as Sandwell North, covering West Bromwich, in 1972, working part time while he continued in his role as a solicitor with Lyon Clark.

He later became deputy coroner for that area, before becoming coroner for Sandwell in 2000, after Sandwell North had been merged with Sandwell South, which covered Smethwick.

Jurisdiction

He then became the first Black Country coroner in 2005, covering Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall. Wolverhampton was added to his remit in January 2012, meaning he has covered one of the largest coronial areas in the UK. He is responsible for ascertaining the cause of any sudden or suspicious deaths. During 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, more than 4,000 deaths were reported to Mr Balmain, and he carried out 520 inquests.

Mr Balmain said: "It has been a great honour to serve as the first coroner for the Black Country jurisdiction.

"I am grateful for the support of all those I deal with and in particular Councillor Mahboob Hussain of Sandwell Council. I look forward to working with my successor to achieve a smooth handover."

Sandwell Council is in charge of the coroner's office and in conjunction with the Chief Coroner and Black Country partners, will now start the process of appointing a new coroner.

Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain who is stepping down

Councillor Hussain, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, added: "I should like to add my personal thanks to those of many people for the sensitive and caring service Mr Balmain has provided to the bereaved of all our boroughs.

"He has always gone the extra mile to help the community even when occasionally we have had to call on him and his staff out of hours.

"He and his staff have shown real commitment and have made a big difference. We will be taking this opportunity to build on the excellent service Mr Balmain has developed."

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Families are struggling now to make ends meet

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"Rather than face up to this food banks crisis, the Government wants to pretend that it doesn't exist"

WE'RE now less than two weeks away from this year's Budget.

George Osborne will be keen to show off any figures indicating that the economy has finally started growing after he started slashing budgets three years ago.

That's good news but from speaking to local families I know how hard people are struggling to make ends meet.

Prices are rising, wages are falling and everyday families are £1,600 per year worse off.

Crisis

It's this cost of living crisis coupled with chaos in the Government's welfare reforms that caused demand for food banks to triple last year, hitting families who can't put enough food on the table.

Rather than face up to this food banks crisis, the Government wants to pretend that it doesn't exist.

Last year Government ministers claimed that the growing number of food banks was driving demand, instead of the other way round. Now they're saying that food banks are growing because supermarkets are donating more food to them.

Conservatives even joined with Ukip MEPs to snub a £3 million aid package that would have supported food banks up and down the country.

That's a real slap in the face for volunteers like those at the Black Country Food Bank, who are struggling to meet soaring demand from hungry families.

They're determined to pretend there's no crisis but they have to face to the truth – many families face a cost of living crisis and the benefits system is in chaos.

George Osborne should use the upcoming budget to offer some support to families that are struggling to feed themselves.

For a start he should bring back the 10p tax rate to help 24 million people on lower incomes meet the cost of living.

IN my last column I called for the Government to get a grip on border controls. Last week's rise in migration figures shows that they've got a long way to go with net migration to the UK up by 58,000 on the previous year.

David Cameron promised "no ifs, no buts" to cut net migration to below 100,000, yet these figures show net migration has gone up and is now more than twice his target figure at 212,000.

Grip

This shouldn't be a surprise once you know that border checks have halved since 2010.

The Government has to get a grip on this. There's no point in having tough rules for people coming here if they're not being enforced. We need action on entrance tests and border controls that more than seven in 10 local people told me they backed.

IT was great to meet with local volunteers celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight at the Co-op in Sedgley last Friday.

Local businesses including the Co-op, Greggs and Subway all got together to show their support for the cause.

I've backed Fairtrade for a long time, so it's great to see local businesses getting celebrating their commitment to it.

It just goes to show that Fairtrade doesn't just tackle farmers living in poverty around the world, but it helps our economy and local businesses in the UK too.

I'LL be heading to Holden's Brewery in Woodsetton to receive a Beer Champion award from head of the family business Jonothan Holden.

I'm delighted to have worked with pubs and brewers on their successful campaigns to safeguard the future of local brewing.

Measures such as the beer duty cut will protect jobs, keep the price of a pint down and keep pubs open.

The Black County is home to the country's best ales and Holden's are no exception. With the right help there'll be more local breweries following in Holden's footsteps which has grown to run 20 pubs.

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NEWS

Tyre firm may have to close as Lidl expands

Being kicked out — Kingswinford Tyres boss Andrew Page, right, with wife Tanya and staff

A FAMILY tyre firm could be forced out of business with the loss of 10 jobs after a supermarket chain revealed plans for a bigger store.

Kingswinford Tyres Ltd has a turnover of £2 million a year with contracts to supply West Midlands Police, the AA and RAC.

But budget supermarket chain Lidl secured planning permission last June to build a store on land at Duckworth Trading Estate,Kingswinford. Now Lidl says it has bought the entire trading estate in Stallings Lane, including the unit currently home to the tyre and exhaust business.

The German firm, that runs 10,000 stores across Europe, now intend to submit a planning application for a bigger store on the site.

Tyre boss Andrew Page says Lidl only informed him of the deal on February 14, telling him he had to move his company out by March 31 when the lease ends. He says he now faces a race against time to relocate or could be left with no alternative but to close. "I'm devastated as we were not told about this despite Lidl talking to us initially 10 months ago," he said.

Mr Page started the business 23 years ago with wife Tanya. His sons work with him, Josh, 23, as workshop manager and Arron, 19, a tyre fitter.

Lidl UK spokeswoman Georgina O'Donnell said: "We have been communicating directly with Mr Page throughout this process and are currently working closely with him to establish a resolution on the timescales set out in his lease.

"Our ongoing discussions with Mr Page will focus on reaching an agreement with regards compensating him for the relocation of his business. We will be making every effort to ensure as favourable an outcome for him as possible."

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NEWS

Death of relative had led to cricket bat assault

A FEUD sparked by a fatal car accident flared intoviolence in a busy town centre, a judge heard.

Mohammed Abid was attacked with a cricket bat by two brothers after they spotted him driving through Dudley, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Adel Rehman weaved in and out of traffic in a bid to catch up with the Audi which had Mr Abid behind the wheel, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting. Adel, 23, and his 19-year-old brother Jibraan leapt from their Seat, blocking part of King Street in Dudley shortly after 5pm on a Monday.

Slammed

Mr Abid's had a car door slammed on his leg when he tried to get out as the pair launched their attack on September 2. He was punched in the head before one brother raced back to their car and grabbed a cricket bat with which to continue the attack. Mr Abid received hospital treatment for a cuts to his face and a hand.

Mr Searle concluded: "The root cause of the incident was that Mr Abid had had a degree of involvement in an incident in which a relative of the brothers' had lost their life 12 months earlier."

It is understood that the person killed in the crash was a passenger in a car that had some connection to Mr Abid, although he was not in it when the tragedy happened.

Miss Heidi Kubic, defending Jibraan, said: " Thankfully the incident was short lived and the injuries were not as serious as they might have been." Mr Bernard Porter, representing the other brother, added: "They met by chance and his aim was to sort out a simmering dispute verbally but he acted in a stupid and impulsive way.

The defendants, both of Bunns Lane, Kates Hill, admitted unlawful wounding and each was given 12 months in custody, suspended for two years with 180 hours unpaid work and £375 compensation to the victim. Adel Rehman also pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention and was banned from driving for six months.

Gearing up to be cyclists

Halfords sales assistant Samantha Blount talks to Rounds Green pupils

A PRIMARY school is doing its utmost to unearth the next Sir Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton by investing in its cycling programme.

Rounds Green Primary School in Oldbury has spent around £2,500 on 14 new bikes and training for its teachers to get more children trained on the Bikeability cycling proficiency course.

Bike experts from Halfords in Oldbury came to set up the bikes and give a talk to pupils on how to use them properly. The school on Brades Road plans to spend the same amount of money over the next two years to buy more bikes so it can involve pupils of all ages.

IHeadteacher Dr Sarah Batstone said: "Cycling is a great activity, the UK is good at it, and it's something people can do to keep fit."

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New venture for Scary Canary

A 'SCARY Canary' is fleeing its nest for a trendy venture combining 'pop-up' clothing shops, a bar, concerts and art shows.

The Scary Canary ladies' and gents' fashion stores, which were opposite each other in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge, have moved to a former McDonald's restaurant round the corner in High Street.

It offers a trendy new concept with the clothes business continuing to run on the internet and in frequent 'pop-up' versions in the new premises.

Owners Stacey Smith and fiancee Steve Pilcher, who originally launched in business eight years ago, have ambitious plans to open a bar, stage music events and provide a community open space, all in the same building. The couple, who are due to wed in September, have a vision to create a community arts space.

Four raids on charity in as many weeks may be last straw

A CHARITY which donates white goods to the poor is facing closure after burglars struck for a fourth time in just over a month.

Raiders ripped off felt and tore wood from the roof to enter the Christians in Action Genesis Project building in Dudley on Friday night

Tools, ornaments and even food donated for a foodbank were taken in the latest burglary at the charity's base on the Thornleigh Trading Estate. They ransacked the building.

It is the fourth time the charity has been hit in just over a month with a lawn mower, bikes and other goods stolen in the previous raids.

Finished

Founder Steve Tracey on Monday said that unless someone came forward to help with security the charity was '100 per cent finished'.

"At the moment I just don't see how we can carry on," he said.

"This time they have actually come through the roof. They have torn off the felt and removed wood to get into the building.

"It is heartbreaking. They have taken tools, such as saws, spanners and hammers.

"They even stooped to taking food out of the foodbank, which is to help people who have hit hard times."

He continued: "We are facing closure. Unless a generous businessman or organisation can come along and help us with security I don't see how we can carry on.

"No firm decision on the future has yet been taken but if something does not happen then we are 100 per cent finished."

Mr Tracey said volunteers had arrived at the base on Saturday morning to find a scene of destruction.

Police vehicle in two-car crash

TWO people suffered minor injuries following a crash involving a police car and another vehicle.

The collision happened on Bilston Street, Sedgley, at around 3pm Saturday, forcing the closure of the road for more than an hour.

A man driving a Vauxhall Astra and a female passenger suffered minor injuries.

Both were treated at the scene by paramedics and taken to hospital for further checks as a precaution.

A male police officer was unhurt in the crash.

Police said the collision was being investigated. But they said it was understood the police car had been attending 'an immediate call for help' at the time and had its sirens and blue lights on.

Both vehicles were badly damaged and a set of traffic lights were flattened.

A precious new arrival at the zoo

Tall order — baby giraffe Kito with parent at Dudley Zoo

MEET Kito, the newborn Rothschild's giraffe who has taken his first steps at Dudley Zoo.

The baby, who measures a mighty 6ft, was born last week to mother 10-year-old Mia. The father is 13-year-old Kubwa.

The youngster's name means precious in Swahili

The zoo's assistant curator, Richard Brown, said: "Kito's arrival has delighted everyone at Dudley Zoo.

"He spent a day in the internal den bonding with mum and we decided to let the pair of them out in the paddock to enjoy the fine weather."

He added: "He's quite a tall baby for a newborn and a very handsome chap and no doubt will fast become a favourite with visitors."

Rothschild's are the world's rarest sub-species of giraffe, originating from Uganda and west central Kenya.

They are easily identified by the colouring of their coat, which is made up of ragged brown patches separated by lighter creamier-coloured hair, with no markings to the lower leg.

Each giraffe has a coat pattern as unique as a fingerprint.

Birds evict bats as new species move in

A STRETCH of canalside could soon be filled with birdsong of the Nuthatch and Sparrow if a new scheme to help struggling species proves a success.

Volunteers have installed 20 bird boxes along the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, in Stourton, to provide birds with valuable nesting space. Boxes originally designed for bats have also been re-located along the stretch of waterway.

The project has been launched after the Canal and River Trust. It is hoped the new boxes will be used by the Nuthatch, Sparrow, Willow Tit and Starlings.

The trust has provided some funding for the boxes and has also been helped by donations.

Volunteer Paul Wilkinson said: "When the Canal and River Trust was monitoring the bat activity it was discovered many of the boxes were being used by birds. This highlighted the fact there was desperate need for nesting space in the area which has prompted this project."

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NEWS

Life ban for a player who broke ref's nose

AN AMATEUR footballer who broke a referee's nose after he had sent him off has escaped an immediate jail term.

Shane Davies attacked referee Alan Kite when he showed him the red card for hurling abuse after the official turned down a penalty appeal, a court heard

Davies had admitted assaulting Mr Kite at an earlier hearing and sentencing had been adjourned at Wolverhampton Crown Court for psychiatric reports.

Reprehensible

His solicitor, Mr Jas Mann, acknowledged his client's behaviour on March 31 last year was 'thoroughly reprehensible'.

Davies, of Hillside Road, Dudley, was given a 12 month prison sentence suspended for two years.

After the case an FA spokesman said Davies, who was already serving a ban for assaulting a rival player in a previous game, and was now banned from football for life.

The 27-year-old told the court he had not played football since the incident.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said the incident happened at a match at King George V Park, Stourbridge, when Mr Kite turned down a penalty appeal.

Davies, who was playing for Malt Shovel Athletic, hurled abuse at Mr Kite who sent the father-of-three off for using foul language. He then slapped Mr Kite causing a broken nose.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said: "He has been extremely candid in the report, which acknowledges that this young man has underlying problems.

"People who play sport and watch sport are not entitled to behave in this way."

He added that Davies understood he had a problem and had consulted his GP about anger management.

Judge Helen Hughes handed him a suspended sentence and told him to complete an anger management programme. He was told to pay £500 compensation to Mr Kite, £535 costs and a £100 victim surcharge.

Animal lovers help Kelly

Tanya Smith with her foster dog Kelly, who is now on the road to recovery

AN ABANDONED dog has been given a new lease of life after animal-lovers rallied round to pay for a major operation to her paw.

Staffordshire cross Kelly was found in a layby in Sandwell with a partly-severed back paw.

Wild Acre Rescue charity arranged for the seven-year-old dog o be seen by Manor Vets, in Graingers Lane, Halesowen.

But vets were unable to operate straight away because her blood loss was so severe. They had to dress the wound daily.

Kelly is cared for by Tanya and Howard Smith, of Cradley Heath.

An appeal issued by the charity for donations to cover medical bills has raised £1,500.

Donations are still needed via the wildacrerescue.co.uk website.

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And whether it's an express Color Bar top-up appointment to a full colour make-over Lisa's team have a mission – to make your hair beautiful and you feel great.

With our Mother's Day competition two Chronicle readers and their mums will both receive a full restyle and colour make-over at the Wombourne salon, worth £140 each.

Lisa is known in the Midlands as the 'people's hairdresser' and renowned for her creative colour, beautiful styling and expertise for all things hair.

Challenge

Local girl Lisa recently undertook the biggest challenge of her career so far when she presented at the Redken European Symposium at Olympia in London – to an audience of 3,000 hairdressers from 26 countries.

Lisa has certainly come a long way since training for her career at Kidderminster College and is now honoured in the hairdressing industry as the 'queen of colour'

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To be in with a chance of winning simply tell us how many Lisa Shepherd Salons there are?

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NEWS

Band bet on themselves to bag Christmas No 1

Countdown to Christmas has begun for local band East of Eden, who are aiming for number one

ROCK band East of Eden are so confident that they will go from obscurity to the top of the charts by the end of this year that they have bet £100 on themselves to be the Christmas number one.

The group, who were raised in Birmingham and now record in Wolverhampton, were given odds of 100 to one by bookmakers Coral.

Should they succeed they will split their £10,000 prize between the Birmingham Children's Hospital and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Singer Tom Harris, aged 17, said: "We believe we can do it. We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't believe in ourselves. The Birmingham Children's Hospital is a local charity and we want to do give something back to the community we grew up in."

Embrace

After refining its skills over the last three years, the band believes the public are ready to embrace live music rather than manufactured pop.

Lead guitarist Dan Brember, aged 19, said: "We want to show young people that you don't have to sell your soul to the X Factor, you can do it the hard way. We really want to introduce live music to a young audience."

The three-piece, who cite Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath amongst their influences, aim to play to 100,000 people this year, performing at schools, universities, music clubs and festivals.

Fans will be able to track the band's progress on the official East of Eden website.

Bass player Luke Bradley, 18, said: "So far things are going as well as they could. "

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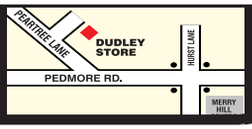

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Great-grandfather dies after van collision with tanker

A VAN driver, who died in a crash with a tanker, has been named by police as Robert Coulson.

The 71-year-old great grandfather, of Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, was airlifted to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital following the accident on the A449 Worcester Road on Tuesday of last week. He died shortly after arrival.

Mr Coulson was driving a white Citroen Nemo panel van towards Kidderminster at around 11.45am when the collision involving a DAF tanker took place. Mr Coulson had to be freed from the vehicle by fire crews.

Mr Coulson, who lived with his wife Sheila and was known to his family as Bob, worked as a part-time delivery driver at JS Optical Ltd on the Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, near to where the accident happened.

Mr Coulson married Sheila in 1980 and they would have celebrated their wedding anniversary on Friday.

He also leaves a step-daughter, Lindy Parkes, her five children, and one great-grandchild.

Mr Coulson was born in Kinver and attended Oldswinford Hospital School in Stourbridge.

He lived in Shropshire for a while and also spent time living in South Africa. But the majority of his life was spent in the Black Country. He was a keen footballer when he was younger, later turning to golf.

He worked at the Eaton factory on Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, before retiring.

Mrs Parkes said: "Everyone liked him. He was a fun man, someone you could have a real laugh with."

Police are asking for witnesses to come forward. Call Pc Lee Baker on the non-emergency number 101, quoting the incident reference 221-S-250214.

Praise as fewer are re-offending

BOSSES at Sandwell Probation service are celebrating after coming top in the list of local authorities in England and Wales under new figures released by the Ministry of Justice that looks at re-offending between October 1 2012 and September 31 2013.

The latest data shows that, out of the 4,631 people dealt with by Sandwell probation team during the 12 month period, 232 went on to re-offend, which meant that borough had a re-offending rate that is 29.4 per cent better than the Government's predicted rate. Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands visited the probation team in Sandwell to congratulate them.

The same report showed that Wolverhampton came sixth and Dudley seventh in the Government chart, with re-offending rates 19.9 per cent and 19.6 per cent better.

Run boosts mayor's causes

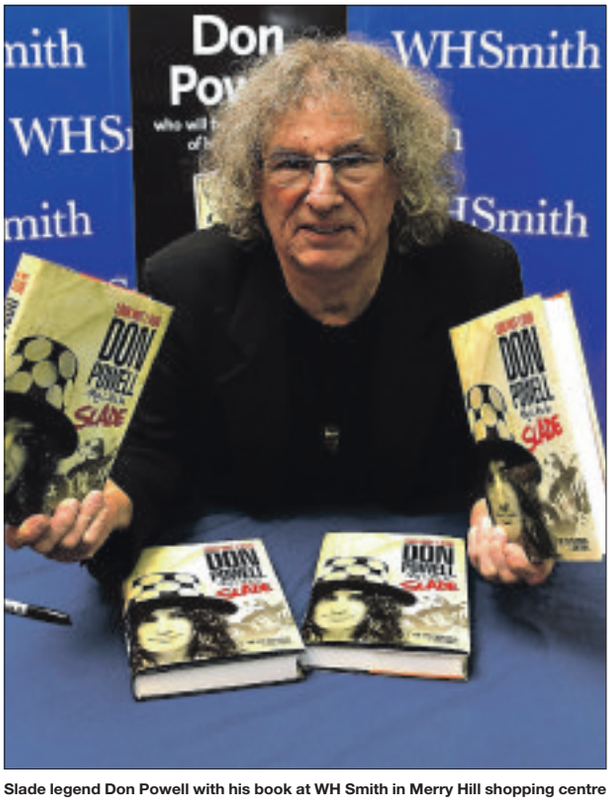
THE Mayor of Dudley's charities are set to run up a massive total after a £2,000 donation from the organisers of a fun run through Halesowen.

The Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis handed over the cash raised from the Great Black Country Road Run last year. The Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch, took part in 10 kilometre run through Halesowen last year along with a number of councillors and council staff.

Organisers agreed to add the Mayors' charities to the official list of worth causes to benefit from the day. It means Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support, Dudley, got a share. Rotary members presented the mayor with the money at the Council House in Dudley.

This year's race will be on September 21. Register at www.bostinrun.com website.

Look wot Don's dun now



Slade legend Don Powell with his book at WH Smith in Merry Hill shopping centre

AS the drummer in Slade Don Powell has seen more than most of the music industry.

But he has also had to overcome personal trauma after he was involved in a severe car crash in 1973 which killed his girlfriend Angela Morris and left him with amnesia

Fans

The star visited Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre to sign copies of his autobiography which saw fans travel from as far a field as Cornwall to meet the glam rock star.

The musician took time out to have his picture taken with eager fans and chat to them, as well as signing album and DVD covers.

The 67-year-old, from Bilston, in Wolverhampton, said he was 'overwhelmed' by the turn-out.

"It is really wonderful and can be quite emotional," he said. "At this event an old school friend of mine came along and we were talking about old times. And I was speaking to one who travelled all the way from Cornwall which is no small distance. I really appreciate it.

"I am delighted that after so many years people still love our music and there seems to be new generations of fans getting into it. There is always a great atmosphere."

Don, who shot to fame in the early 1970s with the legendary glam rock band, was at WH Smith to sign copies of his autobiography called Wot I Dun — My Life in Slade.

In part the book uses notebooks and diaries he kept due to his problems with short-term memory following the crash.

It also lifts the lid on his descent into alcoholism and drug misuse following the smash, and a bizarre incident involving X Factor judge Sharon Osbourne.

Grant aids glass centre's new look

LARGE glass windows will front the Ruskin Glass Centre building, in Stourbridge, which is getting £483,018 of funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

A total of £5 million is being ploughed into improving the historic glass centre.

The final phase of work will include the building of a visitor reception, heritage display area, workshops and additional space for small businesses.

But before work begins, archaeological digs are taking place at the site. These have already unearthed the remains of the glass cone which once stood there but was believed to have been destroyed years ago.

The cash will also fund the conservation of the Ruskin Mill Land Trust's rare glass blowing moulds and the appointment of a Heritage Outreach Officer to deliver a three-year programme of activities. This has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Star backs cycle safety

OLYMPIAN and world track cycling star Jessica Varnish is backing a new road safety campaign with the number of people riding bikes on the increase.

The 23-year-old who rides for Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club is promoting the scheme in the wake of numerous accidents on the nation's road.

Latest statistics from the Department for Transport indicate that the number of cyclist casualties is increasing. Visit www.whatmattersmost.org.uk for more.

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MEMORY LANE

One of the pictures showing the destruction which will be on display at the library

DAILY SKETCH.

HE ZEP RAID OVER ENGLAND

The Daily Sketch article with pictures of the victims

Amateur historian Derek Nicholls who has put together the Zeppelins exhibition

Survivors take a look at a crater in Bradford Place, Walsall

L21 Zeppelins were used to bomb the Black Country

Devastating night of the Zeppelins that left its mark on Black Country

by Mark Andrews

IT WAS just a normal night in the Black Country, or as normal as any night was during the dark days of the First World War.

The trams clattered through the streets, folk flocked to the cinemas. The lights were ablaze as people went about their business as usual.

Then the Zeppelins came. Dozens were killed as bomb after bomb pounded down on Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall. Buildings were ripped apart as death rained down from the skies. A devastated husband returned from the pictures to find three generations of his family had perished in the carnage. The Black Country had never seen anything like it.

Amateur historian Derrick Nicholls has spent 18 months researching the devastating raids of 98 years ago, putting together an exhibition at Tipton Library.

Among the artefacts Mr Nicholls, a 71-year-old retired newsagent, has gathered together, is a police notice advising the public what to do in the event of an air raid.

It suggests keeping a bucket of sand or water to hand in the upstairs bedrooms, in order to tackle any small fires that may break out.

"All windows and doors on the lower floor should be closed to prevent the admission of noxious gases," added police commissioner Mr E R Henry.

Destruction came to the Black Country on a foggy, frosty night on January 31, 1916, when a fleet of German Zeppelin airships were making their way to attack Liverpool.

But in the misty conditions and heavy clouds, two of nine aircraft – the L21 and L19 – became lost over the Midlands. Zeppelin L21 was commanded by 45-year-old Kapitanleutnant Max Dietrich. He had thought he was flying over the Irish Sea but had been mistaken by sparsely populated areas of countryside.

On his orders, the crew of 16 dropped their deadly payload from the skies on an unsuspecting public largely unaware of their imminent fate. Bombs were initially believed to have hit Union Street in Tipton, with around five of the devices falling all around.

One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged, the gas main was set alight. In all 14 people were killed in the town as the bombs struck at around 8 o'clock that night.

Treatment

News reports at the time were subject to military censorship, and the Express & Star was only allowed to describe the Black Country raids as being in Staffordshire.

An inquest was held jointly for 13 of the victims of the Tipton bombing on February 3. The 14th victim Louisa York, who worked as nurse, had been taken for treatment at Dudley Guest Hospital and her inquest was held elsewhere. The ruling from the inquest on the death certificates states 'Wilful murder against the Kaiser of Germany and his son the Crown Prince as being accessory to and after the fact' at the insistence of the inquest jury. A young couple, Maud and William Fellows, who were unmarried but had the same name, were killed after one bomb hit as they walked along a canal towpath in nearby Bradley.

Their death is commemorated by a plaque on the wall of the Bradley pumping station.

Mr Nicholls, of Beverston Road, has been holding an exhibition at Tipton Library, bringing together the images and stories through trawling the archives, including those of the Express & Star for the exhibition. At the time, the Express & Star reported that 26 people had been killed instantly during the night, but Mr Nicholls' research found the death toll was significantly higher. Mr Nicholls says a total of 33 people were killed in the raid."

Mr Nicholls is now considering putting together a book of his research. The exhibition, which returns to the library from March 13 to 28, was put together to coincide with a special community opera, Zeppelin Dreams which runs at the Wolverhampton Grand on March 20 and 21.

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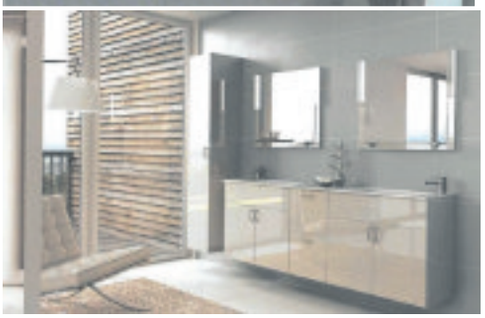

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Women seeking men

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WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

FEMALE 65, attractive, much younger looking, slim but curvy 5ft 2ins, blonde, seeks younger man. Loves animals and cosy nights in. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4319200**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 409991**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

Men seeking women

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TOM 55, looking for female any age for a discreet fifty shades of grey friendship and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4236310**

A loving caring guy 54, who likes most things in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4170816**

PAUL 68, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine, enjoys most things, likes a laugh, seeking similar female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410655**

WOLFIE 42 Seeks Wendy for football matches and nights in/out. Luvs gym keeping fit, seeking a nice girl for LTR. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4245943**

SINGLE male, 31, 6ft brown eyes seeks lady with gsoh for fun and possible LTR. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267855**

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643**

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOH, seeking female with GSOH for fun, friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703**

5FT 10ins male, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40 plus for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410589**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

MALE 53, looking to meeting 60-65 lady for adult fun times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4234583**

MALE 45, GSOH 6ft. Many interests, seeks slim outgoing lady, for love or friendship. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4283955**

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839**

JEFF 35, GSOH, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeks special female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737**

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245**

MALE 55, 5ft 10ins, seeks lady 30-58 for cosy nights in, holidays, nights out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410207**

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half Italian, seeks busty, classy lady, 55 plus for discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia Loren? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410529**

LOVING caring, considerate, romantic, passionate, Stoke area man, 52, OHAC, good looking, professional, seeks tactile, slim-medium build female for special occasions and exotic holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407683**

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REVIEWS

Obscure 1960s rock is rescued

Rock, reggae, blues and ballads among reissues and compilations heard by LEON BURAKOWSKI

ESOTERIC Recordings have rescued 1970 album We Are Everything You See by Locomotive from the mists of time. This Brummie psychedelia was ignored on its release because the band had previously been known for jumping on the ska bandwagon and scoring a minor hit with Rudi's In Love in 1969.

The band, which in a previous incarnation included Led Zeppelin's John Bonham on drums, had a complete change of direction as the decade died. Singer, organist and main songwriter Norman Haines converted to psychedelic rock.

The result, We Are Everything, is a whimsical blend of pop/rock with soulful horns plus orchestral and jazz flourishes.

At the time if fell of deaf ears but 36 years on it sounds like an excellent example of late flowering psych pop, particularly Mr Armageddon and the groovy A Day In Shining Armour.

Triple CD boxed set Love Poetry And Revolution unearths 65 nuggets from the British psychedelic music scene between 1966 to '72. This ranges from mod bands trying their hand at the new hippy thing to tracks that would be called heavy metal or prog rock now. A few familiar names crop up, including The Spencer Davis Group, a Clifford T Ward rarity, Crazy World of Arthur Brown, and Hawkwind (the latter two are still touring!), plus bands with such names as Crocheted Doughnut Ring and Felius Andromeda. The booklet is a good read for rock historians.

Birmingham rock band Locomotive pictured at the end of the 1960s

On the subject of Hawkwind, probably their definitive album was Warrior On The Edge Of Time, remastered and released as an expanded 3 disc boxed set by Atomhenge including DVD and booklet. A worthy testament to the last band that keeps the freak flag flying.

Obscure blues and gospel-influenced early soul numbers that find favour on the Northern Soul scene feature on the 26-track Northern Boys (Righteous Psalms), including It's Your Voodoo Working by Charles Sheffield and Chills & Fever by Ronnie Love. Lots of honking sax, footstomping rhythms and some acrobatic vocal performances mean that this collection could appeal to rock 'n' roll fans too.

Popcorn is a pop cult on the continent, a slow dance genre which draws on rock 'n' roll/jazz instrumentals and ballads from the 1950s and 60s. This 20-track compilation Sweet 'N' Salty Popcorn (Croydon Municipal) will be a joy for those who like their pop Brylcreemed and dramatic from such as Craig Douglas and Eartha Kitt. Much of this old vinyl is on CD for the first time and there are gems, like Jackie Weaver's The Tingle and Billy Storm's way-over-the-top Easy Chair.

Woozy vintage reggae instrumentals hint at the genius of dub pioneer Lee 'Scratch' Perry on The Good, The Bad And The Upsetters (Hot Milk) by his band The Upsetters.

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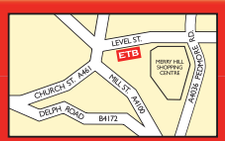

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REVIEWS

Men were desperate for reunion

The Desperate Men (reunion)
Newhampton Arts Centre, W'ton

THE atmosphere was filled with nostalgia and the weeks of waiting were over for both the fans and the band.

Midlands group The Desperate Men had not played together for 10 years although you wouldn't have thought so as they launched into their first number. Dave Jones, originally from Wolverhampton and now a native of Cork, Eire, had returned for the reunion, and banged out the first sound with the thumping intro of The Wall of Death on his drums.

Frontman John Richards, from Bridgnorth, launched into each of the opening numbers with a real enthusiasm almost like the latent rock musician in him had been dormant too long and relished being let off the leash.

Right from the off, Richards looked more comfortable with the faster-paced rock and blues sound than in his folk persona as the voice and lead of The John Richards Band.

Before a packed theatre at the Dunkley Street centre he and the assembled band showed their versatility moving from rock to Cajun and then to much heavier reggae dub sound such as All She Took Away. With Ian Rowley, Paul Dowswell, Steve Watton and Richards' daughter Emma mixing their own songs with those of others including Bob Seger, The Pogues and REM it provided a great night of music.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Song is worth wait

Rudimental,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall

FOUR guys in a band, yet with no lead singer. That hasn't done Rudimental any harm, though. Number one hits featuring guest vocalists, a best-selling album, sell-out concerts anda Brit award have come their way.

This was the last night of their tour and DJ Locksmith urged the crowd to have the best night ever. He even dedicated Not Giving In to his four-year-old son and Thomas Jules took on lead vocals for the song made famous by John Newman. Feel The Love had the massed ranks bouncing as it ended the main set.

Right Here, saw Anne-Marie take the mic. Good though her husky tones were, she could not match the delectable Foxes.

Fans were literally left Waiting All Night for their biggest hit as it finished the encore. Anne-Marie again ably deputised for Ella Eyre. Bridgette Amofah was another guest on the night and took the lead for new single Powerless, which actually features Bewdley's Becky Hill.

MARK SHIPP

Elisha Willis, as the Empress, confronts the Princess

Treat for the eyes but little romance

The Prince of the Pagodas,
Birmingham Hippodrome

BENJAMIN Britten's dramatic music and the skills of Birmingham Royal Ballet dancers ensured David Bintley's reworking of a difficult ballet was a delight.

But Pagodas is unlikely to become a hugely popular part of the repertoire because the story of sibling love lacks romantic passion.

The tale of an evil Japanese empress who turns a prince into a lizard and mistreats his royal sister has echoes of European fairy tales, particularly Cinderella. At its UK premiere in Birmingham, this spectacular, beautifully lit production with costumes by War Horse designer Rae Smith was a treat for the eyes.

Bulbous dancing demons, prancing seahorse, mincing crustaceans made the magical second act a highlight. Momoko Hirata was captivating as the princess, matched by Joseph Calley, slithering across the stage as her enchanted brother, the Salamander Prince.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

Priceless double act

Punt & Dennis,
Birmingham Town Hall

IT was brilliant to see this double act together in the Second City. While Dennis remains a familiar face on TV through Mock The Week and Outnumbered, Punt is rarely seen on our screens these days. While the two still work together on radio, it was great to see how they translated the partnership to the stage.

Dennis played the funnyman to Punt's stooge but the end result was a comedy romp through TV channels, the European Union and how nations celebrate. They gave their irreverent look at politics and posed the big question on everyone's lips: "Why, during the recent floods, couldn't Eric Pickles be used as a sandbag?"

Other gems included a Mock the Week-style 'things not to say in a job interview' and snippets like the definition of a closet racist — a person who doesn't like someone from Narnia. Sport was tackled, with the observation that Tokyo 2020 will be the first Olympic Games for those with perfect vision — priceless.

MARK SHIPP

star extra TRAVEL

NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London in May this year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madama Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris.

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May, the production's 25th anniversary year. Book your break now choosing from one of the options below.

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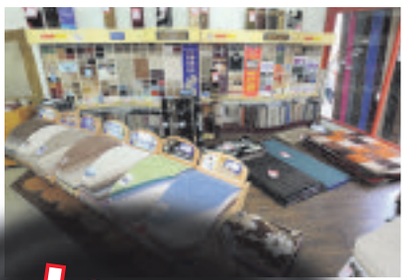

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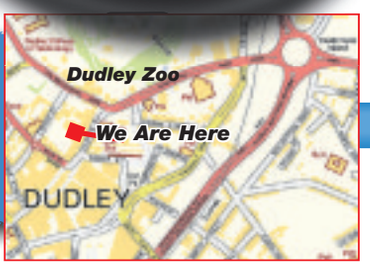

Access from Tower Street Drive, side of Malt Shovel Pub

NEWS in brief

£3m fire station is nearly complete

A £3 million fire station is quickly taking shape in the Black Country with the steel frame and roof of the new building completed.

The station is being built on the site of former municipal buildings on the junction of Halesowen Road and Barrs Road, in Cradley Heath.

Officials from West Midlands Fire Service have confirmed that the construction of the station is progressing well.

Construction of the steel frame and roof of the building had been completed with brick and block work already under way. The fitting of electrics will begin this month.

It was announced last week the new station will be named Haden Cross Community Fire Station.

'Begging bowl Britain' warning

SANDWELL Council will give five food banks one-off grants totalling £75,000 — including £3,00 for The James Project in Rowley Regis — to feed the growing number of Black Country families on the bread line.

The cash-strapped authority is growing increasingly concerned about people facing crisis.

Chiefs at the authority, which needs to save £120 million by 2016, say Government cuts are taking their toll.

The authority's finance boss, Councillor Steve Eling, warned those same cuts could soon lead to 'begging bowl Britain'.

Court told drug dealer 'drove like a maniac'

A DRUG dealer with a string of previous convictions "drove like a maniac", including the wrong way around a roundabout, in a bid to escape from police.

Paul Oakes narrowly avoided colliding with two pedestrians as he tried to escape from the officers in Long Lane, Rowley Regis, in November last year.

Recorder Mr Keith Raynor said during sentencing: "You drove like a maniac and it is fortunate no-one was injured."

Oakes, aged 48, was already on bail over an incident in April when he tried to flee police, leaving behind electronic scales and a bag containing drugs.

Mr Alexander Barnfield, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The dangerous driving matter was on November 30. He was stopped by police in Long Lane in Rowley Regis. He tried to escape the police by driving onto the central reservation. He has then drove around the roundabout the wrong way and towards on-coming traffic. He came close to two pedestrians."

Oakes was arrested on December 16 and found with five bags of amphetamines. Oakes had committed 111 previous offences and had 43 convictions including burglary, aggravated vehicle taking and drug crimes.

Miss Sharonjit Bhaia, defending, said: "Mr Oakes had already served two-and-a-half months since his arrest for the dangerous driving matter. He had been electronically monitored for 223 days. Adding that up, it's the equivalent of 12 month sentence."

Oakes, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to possession of amphetamines with intent to supply, on the basis it was only to his friends. He admitted further charges of possession of amphetamines, dangerous driving, driving without insurance and without a licence.

Mr Raynor sentenced him to 12 months in jail suspended for 18 months. He was ordered to take part in the thinking skills programme and banned from driving for two-and-a-half-years.

Park and ride to be extended

WORK on a £3 million extension to a busy railway station's park and ride is set to start within the coming months.

The expansion of Rowley Regis' car park, by an extra 360 to 708 spaces, was due to begin before Christmas but was delayed as engineers sought the necessary approvals.

Sandwell Council's planners approved the scheme by transport authority Centro in June last year.

The extra parking space will be constructed on disused land adjoining the current car park, following thesuccess of the park and ride system at the site.

A spokesman for Centro said: "Construction work on Rowley Regis Park and Ride is due to start in spring this year.

"We have been working closely with partner organisations to come up with a design that benefits the highest possible number of passengers using the facility and making sure this gets through the necessary approval stages.

"The improved facility will provide a further 360 free parking spaces for rail users and help reduce the congestion on our roads which currently costs our region more than £2 billion each year.

Manhunt for armed robber

The robber makes off with the till at Booze Corner

THIS CCTV picture shows a man police are hunting for three separate raids in which he threatened people with a gun.

The first two raids, at HSBC in Cradley Heath and Lloyds TSB in Bearwood, proved fruitless with the offender, aged in his 40s or50s, fleeing empty handed.

Snatched

But in the most recent raid, on February 18, the man snatched a till from Booze Corner in Halesowen.

The robber first struck on January 31, when he walked into the HSBC on Cradley Heath High Street and pulled out a handgun.

Then on Monday, February 17, the same man is believed to have struck at Lloyds TSB on Bearwood Road, where his attempts were foiled again.

Two men entered Booze Corner on Howley Grange Road, Halesowen, and demanded money from the till while brandishing a gun.

One of the men grabbed the till and ran to a waiting car, a turquoise Land Rover.

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police warning on garden workcon

A WARNING has been issued by police after conmen posing as council staff fleeced a pensioner out of hundreds of pounds.

They asked her for payment for gardening work and then stole from her while the unsuspecting victim was distracted into fetching their 'fee', police revealed.

The 78-year-old victim, of Cradley Heath, only discovered the 'workmen' were bogus when she visited her housing office in Blackheath and asked about the men who had called at her home earlier in the day.

Sneaked

Staff broke the news that the men were not working for Sandwell Council.

Further checks confirmed that not only had the heartless tricksters conned the pensioner out of £600 but they also stole hundreds more when they sneaked inside the property and stole money from a bedroom.

The men left the scene in a black Land Rover. They both spoke with Black Country accents.

Detectives have issued an urgent appeal for anyone with information about the 'despicable' fraudsters to come forward following the incident in Prince Street.

Call Force CID at Harborne by dialling 101, or alternatively Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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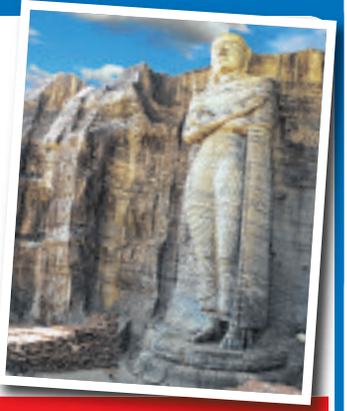

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One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.

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NEWS

Tram users asked for views on revamp

TRAM users are being asked for their views on the future extension of the Midland Metro.

As part of the huge Birmingham city centre regeneration announcedto accommodate HS2, an extension of the tramline will could take the Metro to the HS2 station at Curzon Street.

The so-called Eastside Extension would also mean that, for the first time, there would be a public transport link between all of the city centre railway stations.

The extension would take two years to build and is planned to be open in time for the launch of the first phase of the high-speed railway line between Birmingham and London in 2026.

Regional transport authority Centro, which worked with Birmingham City Council on drawing up the 'Curzon HS2 Masterplan' unveiled recently, is now keen to hear views on the two possible options for the extension.

Option one, the longest at 925 metres, would join the existing Metro network at the junction of Bull Street and Corporation Street, and travel down Lower Bull Street before turning right onto High Street. It would continue into Carrs Lane, cross Moor Street Queensway where there will be a new Metro stop, before continuing along Eastside promenade to the new Curzon Street station stop.

Option two, measuring at 800 metres, would join the existing network at the same point, but would then travel along Lower Bull Street crossing Dale End, then on to New Meeting Street with a stop at Albert Street, before reaching Moor Street Queensway and joining the new Curzon Street Station stop.

Clare's Law to allow check on criminal records

WOMEN across the Black Country are to have the right to find out if their boyfriend has a secret violent past under new laws.

Clare's Law, which enables both men and women to ask police for background checks that could reveal whether they are at risk of attack or abuse from a partner, will be brought into effect this month.

It also gives potential victims a 'right to know', which allows police to disclose sensitive information about a partner even if an individual has not asked for it.

The expansion of Clare's Law nationally comes after a successful pilots in Manchester, Gwent, Wiltshire and Nottingham during which more than 400 women were given sensitive information such as details of a partner's criminal record or complaints about them.

Staffordshire and West Mercia Police are this week preparing for the roll out on Saturday while West Midlands hope to have it in force by the end of the month.

Staffordshire Police Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "Domestic abuse shatters lives. It can not only affect the victim but any children living with them and the wider family.

"Domestic abuse is rarely a one-off and tends to escalate in frequency and severity over time.

"Victims often blame themselves and can make excuses about the offender's behaviour.

"This new scheme allows people the choice to get out of a potential abusive situation."

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend George Appleton at her Salford home in February 2009. She was unaware of his domestic abuse history.

The hair apparent to beard and beer title

Beard of the Year winner Yorkshire's Michael Legge

THEY travelled from all over the country with one aim in mind — to be crowned the Beard of the Year.

A Black Country brewery contest to find a man with the best facial hair to be featured in a pump clip was staged by Dudley's Fownes Brewing Co at the Wheatsheaf pub, in Birmingham Road, Walsall.

And 28-year-old Michael Legge, from Rotherham, won the overall prize by more than a whisker. His face will now be pictured on pump clip for a beer to be brewed by the firm later in the year.

There were four categories in all: full beard, pointed beard, moustache and free-style, with the winner of each going through to the grand final.

Mr Legge, a joiner, beat tough competition from Tipton's Ben Bennett in the full beard category. Mr Legge, who travelled from Rotherham especially for the event, said: "I am really excited to win the overall prize. It's not everyday you have your face put on a pump clip."

It is hoped it will become an annual event.

RSPCA boost

VOLUNTEERS from the RSPCA raised more than £150 during a recent collection.

Customers at Pets at Home in Oldbury donated a total of £158.67 during the collection at the store from February 14 to 16.

£95,000 to restore a classic locomotive

A £95,000 grant has been awarded towards the restoration of a famous locomotive which will be used on the line running between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

The Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust has been given the cash through a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. It will be used to help fund the restoration of the Great Western Railway locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall.

It will be used as the learning and resource tool for students and apprentices of the railway's Heritage Skills Training Academy.

After 27 years out of service, the locomotive will be returned to the operational splendour of its era for people to enjoy in full working order.

The restoration of Hagley Hall, named after the Worcestershire stately home, and being mainly based in the West Midlands during its working life, is expected to be of considerable interest.

Visitors will be able to follow its restoration to completion then experience a journey along the branch line in the same way as previous generations.

In September last year the railway developed and launched a pilot Heritage Academy, an apprenticeship and training scheme for young people.

New store is opening on retail park

THE first new business at a mini-retail park being created in Wolverhampton is due to open this week, creating 30 new jobs.

Poundworld is opening a second store in the city, at the site of the former Matalan Discount Club in Birmingham Road.

The 20,000 sq ft former store will also be home to Aldi and Iceland, both due to open there later this year.

Chris Edwards, junior trading director at Poundworld, said: "We're thrilled to be part of the new development at Birmingham Road Retail Park. We already have a store in Wolverhampton at the Mander Centre and it's fantastic to be creating another 30 new retail jobs for the town with our second store."

Bosses at Yorkshire-based Poundworld say they are hoping to open a further five stores in the West Midlands by the end of 2014, creating a further 150 new jobs. They are yet to reveal where the shops will be.

Aldi is due to open the doors at its new base at the Birmingham Road site on April 10, creating 35 jobs. Iceland is set to follow suit, although it is not yet clear how many new jobs that move will create.

The former Matalan discount store was last occupied by furnishings retailer Homeland but has stood empty since October 2011.

It's all HAPPENING... LG Arena the nia

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NEWS

Theatre group need some more recruits

Ready to audition for the role of Oliver is six-year-old Max Castle from Billbrook outside the Grand Theatre

A THEATRE company is hoping to have audiences asking for more when it stages Lionel Bart's hit musical Oliver!

The South Staffs Musical Theatre Company will stage its performances at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in October. The amateur company is seeking talented youngsters to play the roles of Oliver Twist and The Artful Dodger, as well for Fagin's gang of pickpockets and workhouse boys.

They need around 25 boys aged between eight and 14.

Alison Norton, chair of the company, said the perfect candidate for Oliver would be someone with plenty of confidence. She said: "He doesn't have to be experienced, just confident and ready for some hard work. He needs to be able to sing in tune and project his voice."

An audition for boys aged eight to 14 will be held at Tettenhall College on March 16, from 9am to 1pm. Call 01902 753037 or email nortonaj@hotmail.co.uk

Look on V's Brightside

THE COUNTDOWN to the V Festival stepped up a gear this week after the announcement of the line-up for this summer's event.

Organisers are expecting huge demand for tickets for the event at Weston Park in August. They go on sale tomorrow (Friday) and see www.vfestival.com for details.

Headlining the festival will be US pop/R&Bsuperstar Justin Timberlake and Las Vegas rock band The Killers.

Other artists who will be taking to the stage over the weekend of August 16 and 17 today expressed their excitement.

Electro outfit Rudimental said: "Main stage this year at V Festival is going to be absolutely crazy!"

Singer-songwriter Dan Smith, from fellow 2014 Brit Award-winning alternative rock band Bastille, added: "The last time we played V Festival, we got the slot because Kyle was working at the Strongbow Tent and we had to borrow him from work for an hour for our gig. We're looking forward to heading back this year and playing on a slightly bigger stage to (hopefully) a few more people."

The line up also includes Ed Sheeran, Paolo Nutini, Lily Allen, Elbow, Kaiser Chiefs, Manic Street Preachers, Blondie, Jason Derulo, Rizzle Kicks, John Newman, Sam Smith, Katy B, and Ella Eyre, among others.

Modern Fame is lacking 80s magic

Fame, Wolverhampton Grand

Fame wasn't all leg-warmers and neon sweatbands at the Grand, this was Fame brought up to date.

The 2014 makeover directed and choreographed by Gary Lloyd has had the songs tweaked and the cast are seen with iPads and smartphones.

The cast gave it their all, dancing, singing and bringing great energy to the production. The set was simple with the backdrop of Times Square, and a stage above the main stage to showcase the brilliant band that rocked everyone's socks off. The lockers which were moved around the stage were rather clunky and looked messy.

Some of the new numbers really worked , 'Can't Keep it Down' got some of the best laughs with total contrast to 'Bring on Tomorrow' which choked the audience in a sad ending. But not all the songs were great, 'Tyrone's Rap' might have been good if we could have heard it properly and 'Think of Meryl Streep' was slightly painful.

Jodie Steele as Carmen Diaz stole the show with an energetic rendition of the title track for the finale.

Fame will live forever but through the 1980s version – not this one. Runs until Saturday.

JODY BALL

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What's On!

1960s and 70s pop legend returns

A HITMAKER of the rock 'n' roll era who found success again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, is back to tour the UK this autumn.

The 74-year-old New Yorker will be celebrating more than 50 years in popular music, success which began in 1959 with Oh! Carol. He had early 60s hits with Calendar Girl, Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen and signature song Breaking Up Is Hard To Do.

Sedaka relaunched his career in the 1970s, enjoying hits with Laughter In The Rain, Love Will Keep Us Together and Solitaire. He also co-wrote Peter Kay's favourite (Is This The Way To) Amarillo.

He is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on November 3. Tickets are £50 and £45 plus fees. Call 0121 345 0600.

Bad Shepherds date for summer

COMEDIAN and singer Ade Edmondson is bringing his band back to the Black Country this summer.

Adrian Edmondson and the Bad Shepherds, who play punk rock songs on traditional instruments in a folk style, will be in concert at the Robin 2 in Bilston on June 15.

Advance tickets are £19.50 and the price on the door will be £22. Call 01902 401211.

Edmondson came to fame in the 1980s as punk student Vyvyan in TV series The Young Ones. The 57-year-old won Celebrity Masterchef last year and presents Ade In Britain.

Canadian crooner Bublé is ready to wow fans at the NIA

A brass task for revival

ACTORS visited the Black Country Living Museum to prepare for their roles in Brassed Off at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

Cast members appeared with the Jackfield Elcock Reisen Brass Band, whose members played for guests at the attraction.

The National Brass Band Championship competitors, based in Shropshire, will be joining the actors on stage when the show runs at the Grand from April 8 to 12.

Conductor Chris Smith, a euphonium player, said: "It's great for the band to be involved with the play. It's been a wonderful experience for all of us."

The play, which follows the fortunes of a Yorkshire colliery brass band, has been revived this year in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 miner's strike.

To book tickets visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call (01902) 429212.

Brassed Off actors Luke Adamson and Andrew Dunn with band members at the museum

IT'S A Beautiful Day for Michael Bublé fans when the Canadian crooner arrives in the West Midlands next week for concerts at the National Indoor Arena on Wednesday and Thursday.

The 38-year-old singer, who has brought style and classy showmanship to the music scene in recent years, had major success last year with his latest album To Be Loved which yielded the hit singles It's A Beautiful Day, Close Your Eyes and After All.

The ice hockey loving showman was delighted during the recent Winter Olympics at Sochi when a medley of his tunes was used by US figure skaters Alex and Maria Shibutani for their routine.

His hit-packed set is likely to include Just Haven't Met You Yet and his sparkling versions of Cry Me A River, Feeling Good, To Love Somebody and Try A Little Tenderness.

Other gigs of the week include a St Patrick's Day warm up with The Dublin Legends – former members of The Dubliners – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Patsy Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow night.

Bombay Bicycle Club bring their indie rock sound to Brum's O2 Academy on Saturday, the same venue on Sunday night will be sold out for US pop-punk band All Time Low.

Michael Bublé — NIA dates

In the O2 Academy's second venue on Sunday The English Beat featuring Birmingham's own Dave Wakeling will revive 80s memories with Mirror In The Bathroom. And 2-Tone fans will be back on Thursday to see The Selecter.

Meanwhile, Chvrches are at Digbeth's Institute on Monday and 60s survivor Rodriguez, the maker of cult hit Sugar Man, plays the Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Chelsea Joker and Sinnerman

COMEDIAN Joel Dommett performs in Wolverhampton as part of his debut stand-up tour tomorrow night (Friday).

The star of BBC's Impractical Jokers and the host of Made In Chelsea spin-off Live In Chelsea, Dommett takes the Slade Rooms stage in Broad Street from 8pm for his 'Practical Joker' show.

Dommett gained rave reviews for his debut Edinburgh Festival show Neon Hero in 2011 and follow-up Nunchuck Silver Medallist. Tickets are £11. Call 0870 320 7000.

Taking to the stage at the Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday) is ITV quiz chaser Paul Sinha. 'The Sinnerman', a qualified doctor, is also an accomplished stand-up comic. Tickets £13.20. Doors 7pm.

Fallen women theme to operas

FALLEN women are the theme for Welsh National Opera's spring season at Birmingham Hippodrome.

WNO stage Boulevard Solitude tonight, Hans Werner Henze's 1950s setting of the Manon Lescaut story. The more famous Manon Lescaut by Puccini, a UK debut for Polish director Mariusz Trelinski, is tomorrow. Verdi's tearjerker La traviata ends the season on Saturday.

The theme continues in Errollyn Wallen's Anon, a WNO production with Sampad South Asian Arts, at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, on March 25 and at The Mac in Edgbaston on March 26.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 8.03.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jonathan Ross

The Jonathan Ross Show
ITV, 9.20pm
Jennifer Hudson has had an extraordinary decade. From being a runner-up on American Idol in 2004, to her Grammy-winning eponymous debut album, and her Oscar, Bafta, and Golden Globe-winning performance in Dreamgirls, she epitomises the American Dream. In the last of the current series, Jennifer drops into the studio to promote her UK concert for the Free the Children charity. Tycoon Richard Branson will also be discussing a life in business and daredevil adventures; Sue Perkins chats about the success of The Great British Bake Off.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the opening match in the fourth round of the Six Nations championship. **4.25** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **4.40** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gabby Logan introduces coverage of the second match of the fourth weekend of the championship, staged at Murrayfield.

7.00 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host the final battle show, by the end of which Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Ricky Wilson and Will.i.am will be one step closer to choosing their acts.

9.10 **The National Lottery Live.**

9.20 **Casualty.** Iain tries to assist a distressed ex-Army friend, whose paranoia over his wife is at breaking point, while new nurse Lofty's keen eye helps save a young man.

10.10 **BBC News**; Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.45 **The Football League Show.** Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Birmingham City v Queens Park Rangers.

1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.00** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.30** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.00** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.30** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **9.00** Live Athletics. **11.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.15** Talking Pictures. **1.00 Film:** The Trouble with Harry. (1955) **2.35 Film:** The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Live Athletics.

8.15 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)

8.45 **The Perfect Morecambe & Wise.** Another selection of classic sketches and routines from the comedy duo's shows.

9.15 **37 Days.** The continental powers are pushed to the brink of war, and Sir Edward Grey seems unsure as to whether Britain should keep out of the impending conflict. Last in the series.

10.15 **Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.** Another ramble through the mind of the comedian.

10.45 **QI XL.** Comedians Cal Wilson, Jack Whitehall and Jimmy Carr join Stephen Fry and regular panellist Alan Davies for an extended edition of the obscure general knowledge quiz.

11.30 **Film: Milk.** (2008) Biopic of politician and activist Harvey Milk, who became America's first openly gay elected official in the 1970s. Directed by Gus Van Sant and starring Sean Penn.

1.30 Film: Nemesis. (1992) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.00** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** The Illusionists. (R) **4.05** The Chase. (R) **5.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 **You've Been Framed! Strikes Back!** Comedy compilation of Harry Hill's most off-the-wall observations inspired by viewers' home videos, featuring potshots at popular culture.

7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Geordie duo play an undercover prank on David Dickinson, go head to head in another round of Ant v Dec and join dance troupe the Mazeppa Cossacks in the End of the Show Show.

8.20 **The Cube.** A teacher and a pizza delivery man tackle a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Jennifer Hudson, Richard Branson, Sue Perkins and Elbow.

10.20 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.35 **FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the sixth round.

11.25 **All You Can Eat.** Supersized meals, restaurant challenges and eating contests. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

9.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the opening day of events in Russia. **11.30** The Morning Line. **12.30** Deal or No Deal. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 **Channel 4 News.**

6.30 **Paralympic Winter Games Highlights.** Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan present a look back at the opening day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, which included alpine skiing and wheelchair curling.

7.00 **Crufts 2014.** Clare Balding presents highlights from day three of the annual dog show held at the NEC in Birmingham, featuring coverage of the utility and toy group judging events.

9.00 **Hostages.** Duncan is ordered to tie up loose ends as investigators get nearer to uncovering the conspiracy, and the FBI agent takes the next step in his master plan by giving Ellen the poison.

10.00 **Film: X-Men: The Last Stand.** (2006) The mutant heroes battle old ally Jean Grey, returned from the dead as the destructive and seemingly unstoppable Phoenix. Superhero sequel, starring Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen.

12.00 Film: Cloverfield. (2008) Found-footage monster thriller, starring Michael Stahl-David. **1.35** Blackout. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. (R) **5.05** Trans World Sport.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **12.00 Film:** The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis. **2.25 Film:** Wimbledon. (2004) Romantic drama, starring Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany. **4.10 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.45 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Martin Landau.

7.00 **NCIS.** An explosion at a mausoleum exposes a number of freshly dismembered bodies, prompting the team to begin a multiple murder investigation. Abby has a personal problem to deal with. (R)

8.00 **NCIS.** A supposedly dead marine suddenly regains consciousness on the autopsy table, leaving the team struggling to solve the mystery of how he came to be in such a strange predicament. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **UFC Fight Night London: Live.** Alexander Gustafsson v Jimi Manuwa. Coverage of the light heavyweight contest at the O2 in London, where rising British star Manuwa will be looking to record a surprise victory.

12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **7.25** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.15 Film:** Blades of Glory. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Arnett and Amy Poehler. (2007) **10.45** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Great Barrier Reef **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of South America **9.00** Salamander **10.35** Totally British 70s Rock 'n' Roll **11.35** The Ballad of Mott the Hoople

ITV2
2.45 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.00 Film:** The Incredible Hulk. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. (2008) **9.15 Film:** The Sweetest Thing (2002) **11.10 Film:** Pitch Black (2000)

ITV3
2.50 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
11.45 Live Darts. The UK Open. **5.00** Eric Bristow: Sports Life Stories **6.00** I Want That Car **7.00** Live Darts. The UK Open. **11.00 Film:** Jarhead (2005)

E4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop II (1987)

Film4
3.05 August Rush (2007) **5.15** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **7.05** St Trinian's (2007) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Vanilla Sky (2001)

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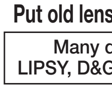

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.03.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jeremy Clarkson

Top Gear: Burma Special BBC2, 8pm

The first of a two-part programme in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May are challenged to build a bridge over the River Kwai in Thailand. In order to do that, however, they have to drive across Burma, a country that has been largely closed to Westerners for more than 40 years, and must make the trip in three lorries, each bought sight unseen from the internet on a limited budget. What follows is an epic journey of beautiful scenery, regular adversity, ongoing malfunction and the constant bickering of the three men.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 BBC News

6.30 Blandings. Clarence grows a raggedy beard, much to the dismay of Freddie, who worries he has little chance of impressing Hollywood starlet Pauline Petite if his father looks like an old tramp.

7.00 Countryfile. Reports on the latest rural developments. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A new friendship grows for Jenny when she is introduced to a patient's male cousin, while Chummy discovers her mother has discharged herself from hospital. Last in the series.

9.00 The Musketeers. A young girl is killed after being hit by the royal carriage, and the Musketeers' investigations lead them to an extraordinary woman condemned to death for witchcraft.

10.00 BBC News

10.25 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) God tires of a reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of real responsibility. Comedy, with Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Aniston.

12.00 Film: Forget Me Not. (2010) **1.30** Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15 Film:** Son of Kong. (1933) **7.15** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.00** Live Athletics.

6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Advice on making money from antiques and collectibles. (R)

6.30 Mystery of the Moor. Investigating Bronze Age burial items discovered on Dartmoor.

7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. A team of film-makers from the BBC's Natural History Unit and scientists from America's Smithsonian Institution venture into Burma's jungles to catalogue its species. (R)

8.00 Top Gear: Burma Special. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May travel through the wilds of Burma as they take three lorries on one of their toughest challenges to date.

9.00 Fast and Fearless: Britain's Banger Racers. Part one of two. Documentary following drivers at the Arena Essex Raceway.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Travel. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

10.35 Line of Duty. R)

11.35 Film: The Killing Fields. (1984) Fact-based drama, starring Sam Waterston.

1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** Silk. (R) **4.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.30** River Monsters. (R) **1.30** Live FA Cup Football. **4.20 Film:** Live and Let Die. (1973)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present the last-ever final, and a show full of surprises is promised as the three remaining celebrities battle it out. Last in the series.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry deals with a raft of problems on his return from Berlin – not least the news of Henri's arrest – while Delphine provides the beleaguered staff with a much-needed morale boost.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Tracey and Sharon worry about their future. Last in the series. (R)

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's matches in the sixth round, which were Manchester City v Wigan Athletic, Hull City v Sunderland and Sheffield United v Charlton Athletic.

11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Northampton Saints v Saracens and Bath v Exeter Chiefs.

12.40 The Store. **2.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Live Paralympic Winter Games. Coverage of the second day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. **11.00** Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the second day of events in Russia. **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** How I Met Your Mother. **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** The Simpsons. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal.

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Paralympic Winter Games Highlights. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan present a look back at the second day of events in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, which included alpine skiing and wheelchair curling.

7.00 Crufts 2014: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights from the fourth and final day of Crufts, and the results of the 2014 dog hero, friends for life and best in show are announced. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: One Day. (2011) Premiere. The 20-year friendship between two university graduates is explored through the anniversaries of their first meeting. Romantic drama, with Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess.

11.05 Film: Working Girl. (1988) Comedy, starring Melanie Griffith.

1.15 The Good Wife. (R) **2.00** One Born Every Minute. (R) **2.55** Supernanny US. (R) **3.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** River Cottage Bites. (R) **4.50** Freesports on 4. **5.15** Arenacross. **5.45** Live Paralympic Winter Games. Coverage of the third day of events in Sochi.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **2.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **3.00 Film:** Forever Young. (1992) **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10 Film:** Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011)

7.10 Film: Hancock. (2008) Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith.

9.00 Film: Blade: Trinity. (2004) The vampire hunter and a team of ruthless human sidekicks face a showdown with Dracula himself. Action thriller sequel, starring Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel and Ryan Reynolds.

11.00 Film: Beowulf. (2007) Motion-capture animated fantasy, starring Ray Winstone.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.05** The Lost Orphan: A Home for Mirela. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 The Voice UK **9.15** Hair **10.15** Family Guy **10.55** Bluestone 42 **11.25** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways **8.00** Shooting the Hollywood Stars **9.00** Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30 Film:** We Have a Pope (2011)

ITV2

2.10 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.40 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.30 Film:** Batman & Robin. Comic-book adventure, starring George Clooney. (1997) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Party Wright Around the World **11.50** The Big Reunion 2014

ITV3

2.45 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **4.45** Lewis **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Inspector Morse

ITV4

12.45 Live Darts. The UK Open. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Live Darts. The UK Open. **11.00** The Power of Darts

E4

3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Troy **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Employee of the Month (2006) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory **10.40** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

3.00 Silent Running (1972) **4.50** Clueless (1995) **6.45** Dear John (2010) **8.50** Never Let Me Go Special **9.00** Good Morning, Vietnam (1987) **11.20** The Hills Have Eyes 2 (2007)

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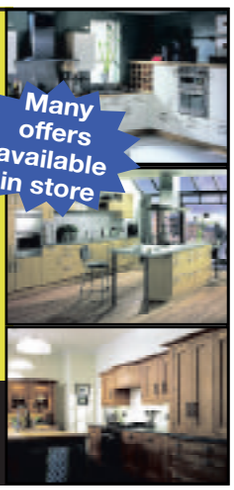

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Lock Up, Channel 5, 11pm
A convict is transferred to a maximum security prison, where he falls foul of a sadistic warden with a grudge against him – and who abuses his position of power to make the inmate's life a misery and destroy his good relationship with the guards. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Donald Sutherland, Darlanne Fluegel and Tom Sizemore. (1989)

Tuesday
McBride: Murder Past Midnight, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The crusading lawyer is called up for jury duty in the case of a woman thought to have poisoned her wealthy husband. However, he ends up reluctantly agreeing to defend the accused when she is retried. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois and Matt Lutz. (2005)

Wednesday
The Sea Inside, Channel 4, 12.50am
Fact-based drama about a fisherman who is paralysed from the neck down in a diving accident. After spending years dependent on others to take care of him, he decides to fight for the legal right to end his own life. Starring Javier Bardem, Belen Rueda, Lola Duenas, Mabel Ribera, Celso Bugallo, Clara Segura and Joan Dalmau. In Spanish, Catalan and Galician. (2004)

My Week with Marilyn, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

Thursday
My Week with Marilyn, BBC2, 9pm
A film student gets a job as a production assistant on the set of movie The Prince and the Showgirl. He bears witness to the clash of conflicting personalities between leads Marilyn Monroe and Laurence Olivier, and becomes a confidant of the troubled, lonely Hollywood actress. Fact-based drama, starring Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne and Kenneth Branagh. (2011)

Friday
The Last Station, BBC2, 11.05pm
A naive young man is appointed as the private secretary to the ageing Leo Tolstoy in 1910, but finds himself in the middle of a bitter conflict. The writer has embraced strong socialist and pacifist principles and wishes to leave everything to the people – but his wife does not want to give up his legacy. Period drama, with James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren. (2009)

Drillbit Taylor, Channel 4, 12.55am
Three kids fall foul of the local bully on their first day at high school, so they advertise for a bodyguard. They end up hiring a man who turns out to be a low-rent mercenary, but discover their new-found protector is not quite the hardened soldier of fortune he claims to be. Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. (2008)

Pick of the Week

The nurses who deliver more than just babies

The midwives will have to deliver some bad news this week – it's the last in the current series. And that will leave over eight million fans wondering exactly what to do with their Sunday evenings.

But just why has this tale of East End London in the days before the contraceptive pill been such a hit, while other, more hyped dramas, struggle to get half as many viewers?

Helen George, who plays the convent's resident blonde bombshell Trixie, has a couple of theories.

"I think it's partly because of the original memoirs that were written by Jennifer Worth. She'd created such beautiful stories and her memoirs were so wonderful, and then Heidi Thomas continued that when she adapted it for the screen, so I think it begins with the writing and the stories. If you've got a good story to tell, people want to listen.

"And then from that, the cast has been really great – it's wonderful that people like Pam Ferris and Miranda Hart wanted to do it.

"And I think it's a period of history that hasn't really been focused on in primetime TV, so there's an interest in that."

There's also an interest in the clothes, which Helen admits she's shares. "We've had an amazing costume designer, and I'm told vintage fashions suit me – it's a period that really accentuates a woman's curves.

"They hold you in all the right places, so it's quite flattering, although it's tough to eat on set sometimes – I'm sewn into my dresses and trousers because they are so tight. I'm thinking 'I can't even sit down properly, so eating pasta probably wasn't a good idea...'"

But while the mix of babies, Fifties frocks and cycling nuns may sound a bit twee, regular viewers will know that the show can also be hard-hitting – and some of those medical scenes aren't for the faint of heart.

Luckily, filming them isn't too much of an ordeal. Helen laughs: "It doesn't bother me, although I'm sure if in real life I was ever faced with one of these situations I'd be passing out on the floor. "Whilst it looks very realistic on the screen, we have this thing where the midwife on set holds a condom over the actress who's pretending to give birth, and she pops it when their waters break. You can't really feel squeamish because it's just a condom full of water!"

So, bear that in mind during any particularly graphic scenes in this episode as Jenny pays a visit to first-time mother Jeanette.

The two women quickly establish a rapport, which is just as well, as Jeanette needs frequent visits – and if that allows Jenny to see more of the mum-to-be's cousin Philip, that's just a perk of the job.

Do we sense another stylish Fifties wedding in the offing, or are we getting a bit ahead of ourselves?

Elsewhere, it looks like Chummy's nursing skills may be needed closer to home, as she discovers Lady Browne has discharged herself from hospital, leaving her daughter in despair.

The mums of Poplar have learned to heed Chummy's advice, so why won't her own mother listen to her?

Jessica Raine, Jenny Agutter and Judy Parfitt also star.

Miranda Hart stars in Call the Midwife, Sunday, BBC1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
DCI Banks
ITV, 9pm
In the conclusion of a two-parter, and the current series, Alan's colleagues are tracking Tracy's phone records in the hope of getting a lead. While searching for his abducted daughter, Banks pressures Al to lead him to Jaffar, aka 'Jaff', but his request proves fruitless. Eventually Al does offer to help – at a price – and the detective considers breaking all the rules to meet his demands. Meanwhile, Morton is suspended following the result of Cabbot's internal investigation. With her job hanging by a thread, Tracy's life in danger and Banks 'in a bad place' as his relationship with Annie is close to snapping, the DCI is going to have to move heaven and earth to keep his family and colleagues together.

The Michael McIntyre Chat Show
BBC1, 10.35pm
Award-winning Michael McIntyre gives Graham Norton and Alan Carr a run for their money this week as he joins the ranks of comedian/chat show host. Hopefully he'll be able to get some top tips from veteran broadcaster Terry Wogan. Pop star Lily Allen faced the benign wrath of Miriam Margolyes the other week on Graham's Friday night show, so hopefully she'll be a little more animated here while plugging her new single Air Balloon. And Alan Sugar is always good fun on Norton's show, so let's hope McIntyre gets the best from him as well, or perhaps he'll be the one hearing those two fearful words which round off most editions of The Apprentice.

Tuesday
Shetland
BBC1, 9pm
Following its successful debut series last year, Shetland is back for a new run of three two-part stories. Yes, we know TV isn't exactly short of crime dramas, but this one promises to be a cut above the rest, and this time around, the adaptations of best-selling author Ann Cleeves' books will be a little darker and more atmospheric. Douglas Henshall is back as DI Jimmy Perez, and the opening instalment guest stars Scottish stalwart Brian Cox.

Wednesday
Law & Order: UK
ITV, 9pm
Once we get over that Shard-centric intro – the most ubiquitous building in any London-based drama these days – the new run of Dick Wolf's Blighty-based saga grabs the viewer with a car chase involving an Astra pinched from Kentish Town. However, thanks to a shock development, the car being pursued comes to a sudden stop, as does the twentysomething driver's life. A discovery in his boot proves even more shocking: a man in his sixties who may have already been dead when he was put there. New arrival DS Joe Hawkins (Ben Bailey Smith) tries to discover who the deceased was and how he died. Tricky as the deceased has no hands or teeth.

Law & Order: UK, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

Astronauts: Living in Space
Channel 4, 9pm
This new three-part documentary explores what it is like to live and work outside the Earth's atmosphere for months at a time. The stars of the show are astronauts Rick Mastracchio, Koichi Wakata and Mike Hopkins. They'll be revealing the effects of microgravity on their bodies, and demonstrate how everyday tasks such as eating, sleeping and washing are completed while weightless. We also get a rare insight into the International Space Station; how NASA supports the crews and families during their missions, and how astronauts adjust back to life on Earth. The next part can be seen on Thursday (March 13).

Thursday
Holiday Hit Squad
It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief
Channel 5, 8pm
If you missed the first instalment of this new series last week, it follows reformed master thief Richard Taylor and policeman Will Davies as they show retailers how to deal with the shoplifters who are pinching their profits. This week, the duo are in Romford to visit a designer clothing store, and find that while managers Amber and Lou may be feisty, they are no match for organised gangs of thieves – especially as there's no CCTV to help them. Can a new consignment of security gadgets, and a masterclass from Richard in the tricks of the shoplifting trade cut down on the pilfering?

Friday
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm
It took years to get established as a lucrative movie and TV franchise, but now the Marvel universe is expanding like a loaf with too much yeast. As any fan will tell you, Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) was apparently killed before the battle of New York during Avengers Assemble, but following his resurrection in this show last year, fans are desperate to see how he came back from the dead. Hopefully we'll find out a few answers this week as Coulson is grilled by the Centipede organisation.

Jonathan Creek
BBC1, 9pm
Despite his wife's phone call promising a low-key 40th birthday party, the lucky Home Office junior Minister at the heart of this final mystery has a real surprise in store: a marquee, loads of gathered friends, and state-of-the-art music to entertain the masses. Except the team from mobile music providers'Sound Trax' never quite make it to the event, and for the problem-solving genius organising the event she has no idea she's about to be kidnapped. Jonathan deduces that she may manage to send some coded SOS to the outside world. Could the phrase 'Waste not…' be the clue to cracking the case?

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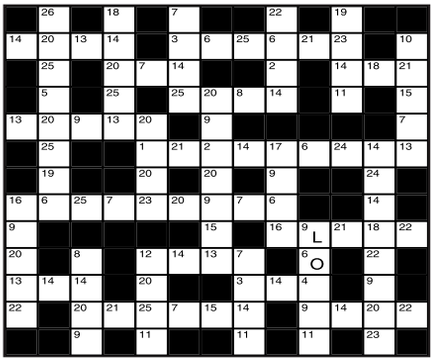
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	U	E	J	Y	T	L	G	Q	I	F	S	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
D	X	B	P	V	M	R	W	H	A	Z	O	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

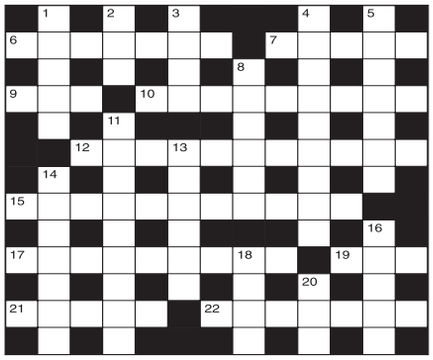
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He doesn't give much away (7)
7. Let in or out (5)
9. It became yours (3)
10. Possibly ample here, but it doesn't last long (9)
12. Are those on it making an empty protest? (6,5)
15. Flighty artist's model (7,4)
17. Such speed could be fatal (9)
19. Margaret shortly turned to stone (3)
21. Polar story heard too often? (5)
22. A record? Yes, of course (3,4)

Down

1. Seeing sense (5)
2. Get on in stages (3)
3. Decline and fall (4)
4. Unemployed crew with mischievous potentialities (4,5)
5. Cafe and an inn combine somehow to make money (7)
8. Moving spirit (6)
11. It circulates records (9)
13. Vegetables on the course (6)
14. Render an account (7)
16. Opted to change a storehouse (5)
18. Meat axe (4)
20. A current recession (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Incapacitate (7)
7. Postpone (5)
9. Non-professional (3)
10. Unremitting (9)
12. Stamp collector (11)
15. Dispute (11)
17. Sycophant (9)
19. Artful (3)
21. Pretence (5)
22. Free (7)

Down

1. Essential (5)
2. Prohibit (3)
3. Scheme (4)
4. Stupid (9)
5. Sorrow (7)
8. Determine (6)
11. Stimulant (9)
13. Slacken (6)
14. Big rock (7)
16. Embrace (5)
18. Regular (4)
20. Wager (3)

Sudoku

2				8			4	5
3		4		9				
			3		7		8	
		6	7				2	
	4	1				8		
	2		8		4	5		6
	6		1		8			
		3				2		8
7	5			2			1	3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	7	5	1	8	9	2	4
9	4	1	7	6	2	3	5	8
5	2	8	4	9	3	7	1	6
8	5	4	1	3	6	2	9	7
1	6	3	2	7	9	8	4	5
7	9	2	8	5	4	6	3	1
2	7	5	9	8	1	4	6	3
4	8	6	3	2	5	1	7	9
3	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Hunting season; 8 Continue; 9 Deed; 10 Weasel; 12 Ordeal; 14 Anklet; 16 Damson; 18 Aria; 20 Generate; 22 High and mighty. Down: 1 European; 2 States; 3 Anon; 4 Asteroid; 5 Raided; 6 Bole; 11 Litigant; 13 Apostate; 15 Loathe; 17 Mirage; 19 Rail; 21 Name. QUICK - Across: 7 Indispensable; 8 Dispense; 9 Room; 10 Caress; 12 Talent; 14 Recess; 16 Remote; 18 Chic; 20 Effusive; 22 Dispassionate. Down: 1 Indicate; 2 Simple; 3 Open; 4 Ancestor; 5 Barrel; 6 Also; 11 Suspense; 13 Nativity; 15 Escape; 17 Musing; 19 Hail; 21 Fair.

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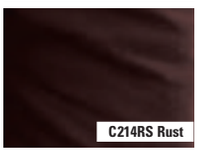
Featuring a colour co-ordinated inner waistband and a secure hook and button fastening. Machine washable.

Available in leg lengths – 27” 29” 31” and waist sizes 32” to 48”

C214NY Navy

C214BR Brown

C214OL Olive


C214RS Rust

C214BG Beige

TEMPEST WAX JACKETS

RRP £49.99 SAVE £15

ONLY £35 plus p&p

This great value classic wax jacket is country wear at its best, allowing you to enjoy the great outdoors in warmth, comfort and style. The breathable waxed finish 100% cotton outer is water resistant, thorn and windproof.

The detachable lined hood and collar is faced in co-ordinated corduroy and the inner lining is 100% cotton tartan. Available in navy and green.

Sizes to fit men and women:

S (34”-36”),

M (38”-40”),

L (42”-44”),

XL (46”-48”),

XXL (50”-52”),

XXXL (54”-56”)

TPN Navy

TPG Green

SPENCER LEATHER SHOES

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An extremely comfortable family of shoes designed to be significantly lighter than similar leather styles. A genuine leather upper and lightweight sole combine to offer durable comfort and a superb walking experience.

Upper: leather. Lining/sock: man-made. Sole: man-made.

Sizes: 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

GENUINE LEATHER

LOOSE TOP SOCKS FOR MEN AND WOMEN BY HJ HALL

RRP £46.99 SAVE £22

ONLY £24.99 plus p&p

Ladies C215

Men's C217

Ladies C216

Men's C218

HJHall SINCE 1882

These calf length, loose top socks are manufactured without elastic to ensure a comfortable wear and leave no unsightly marks on the skin. Supplied in a pack of 12 assorted colours, they are made of 80% cotton and 20% nylon.

Ladies socks fit sizes 4-7. Available in two pack options: C215 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 2 damson, 2 oatmeal and 2 denim; C216 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 2 ecru, 2 denim and 2 raspberry.

Men’s socks fit sizes 6-11. Available in two pack options: C217 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 3 mid-grey and 3 olive; C218 contains 2 black, 2 indigo, 2 oatmeal, 2 mid-grey, 2 red and 2 maize.

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				TOTAL	

Property

Warm to ways for cut in energy and home bills

WITH energy bills at record levels, the Heating Helpline has some energy saving advice on ways to improve insulation and lower bills.

Around 60 per cent of the energy used in the home is for heating – for most households that's many hundreds of pounds spent per year just to keep it warm.

B&ES, the Building & Energy Services Association, who operate the free consumer advice service the Heating Helpline, say too few households take sufficient measures to fully insulate their homes. This means a lot of energy – and money – is simply wasted. Yet there are simple steps to take, some costing very little, that can help keep the warmth in, so there is much less need to crank up the thermostat.

Here are the Heating Helpline's top 10 list of tips

1. If you have less than 10cm of insulation in your loft you'll be wasting energy. Top the insulation up to 27cm and you could save over £150 a year.

2. Since the 1930s, most houses have been built with an air cavity between two outer walls. Get this gap filled with insulating foam and you could save up to £200 a year on bills.

3. Floorboards lose a lot of heat. Insulation seal between the gaps can save you about £25 per year.

4. Insulate your hot water cylinder. Fitting a British Standard jacket around your cylinder will cut heat loss by over 75 per cent and save you around £40 a year – more than the cost of the jacket.

5. Lagging all your hot water pipes could also save you more than £25 a year.

6. Badly-fitted doors and windows mean avoidable heat loss. Draught proofing doors and windows by sealing gaps will help save energy. A curtain at the front door and heavy, well-fitted curtains provide insulation and reduce draughts. To track down the source of draughts take a lit candle and see where it flickers.

Top up your loft insulation and you could save more than £150 a year

7. Keep your doors and windows closed when the heating is on and save £15 a year.

8. Thermal blinds, which stay flush to the window frame using magnets, are a good alternative to heavy-lined curtains. Cost is about £145 per sq m.

9. Draw your curtains at dusk to help keep the heat generated inside your rooms.

10. Unused fireplaces are one of the biggest causes of lost heat. If you're not using your chimney but don't want to board it up try a chimney balloon – they're easy to inflate and last for years.

Under the Government's Energy Company Obligation (ECO) programme participating energy companies will help pay for all or part of the cost of installing different home insulation measures and even a new boiler. To find out more contact the independent Energy Saving Advice Service on: 0300 123 1234.

The Heating Helpline provides essential information on energy saving in the home and the importance of regular heating maintenance, and also offers dozens of money-saving solutions for homeowners. Contact them free on 0800 810 8303 or visit the website at: http://www.heating-helpline.org.uk

K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 1st April 2014

12, CHAPEL COURT, CHAPEL STREET, PENSNETT
Immaculately presented Flat
(access via Main Entrance rear of St. James' Church Hall)
Guide: £58,000 / £63,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.

16 BATE STREET, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON
Spacious and smart three bed Bungalow - fully modernised
Guide: £118,000 / £123,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.

209 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON
Well located three bed Terraced
Guide: 63,000 / £68,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.

80 BIRCHES ROAD, BRADMORE
Needing some upgrade - large three bed Semi in good location
Guide: £80,000 / £85,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m.

19 PROSSER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON
On corner plot - large End Terraced with big outbuilding
Guide: £58,000 / £63,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.

75 HILL STREET, ESSINGTON
Investment Property - Post Office / Shop with three bed Flat over Shop Let. Flat Vacant
Guide: £65,000 / 70,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7th & 8th MARCH @ 12.15 p.m.

LAND AT OLD STAFFORD ROAD, CROSS GREEN
An attractive plot of Land abutting the Staffs. & Worcs. Canal towpath (Bridge No. 71).
Vehicular access and with large Mobile Home - Mains Water and Electricity. Approx. 100ft. road frontage
Guide: £38,000 / £43,000

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GORNAL
SUMMIT PLACE

Detached bungalow standing on a landscaped plot of land adjacent to the village centre. The property has been fully refurbished and fitted to a high specification to offer luxury accommodation comprising LOUNGE- FULLY FITTED DINING KITCHEN-INTEGRATED APPLIANCES-LAUNDRY SITTING ROOM-TWO BEDROOMS-BATHROOM-GAS C/HTG DOUBLE GLAZED-LANDSCAPED GARDENS-PARKING-ENERGY RATING D

Offers based on : £212,500

GORNAL
BANK ROAD

- Traditional detached
- Extended • Porch
- Hall • Extended lounge
- Dining room • Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Energy rating E

Offers based on: £179,950

GORNAL
ORCHARD GROVE

- MID TOWN HOUSE
- HALL• LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- GAS C/HTG
- ENERGY RATING E

Offers based on: £99,950

GORNAL
BANK ROAD

- BRAND NEW HOME
- SEMI DETACHED
- HALL• LOUNGE• FITTED KITCHEN
- INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- CLOAKROOM• THREE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GAS C/HTG
- DOUBLE G;LAZED
- GARDENS

Offers based on: £137,500

GORNAL
THORNLEIGH

- Semi detached
- Extended• Hall
- Lounge• Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom• Garage
- Double glazed• Gas C/HTG

Offers based on: £139,950

For a FREE Sales Valuation call 01384 252527 or 07973 291881

Pensnett
TANSEY GREEN ROAD

- Semi detached
- Hall• Cloakroom
- Lounge• Fitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite to each
- Parking• Gas c/htg
- Double glazed
- Energy rating C

Offers based on: £129,950

GORNAL
BIRD STREET

- Detached
- Cottage style
- Fully refurbished
- Lounge• Dining room
- Cloakroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom

Offers based on : £104,950

GORNAL
NEW STREET

- MID TERRACED
- FULLY REFURBISHED
- LOUNGE• FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- GAS C/HTG
- ENERGY RATING E

Offers based on: £97,500

GORNAL
HAWTHORNE GROVE

- MAISONETTE TO LET
- FIRST FLOOR
- HALL• UTILITY/LAUNDRY
- LOUNGE• FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM• GAS C/HTG
- DOUBLE GLAZED• GARDEN
- ENERGY RATING D

£495 PCM + FEES

UPPER GORNAL
DUDLEY ROAD

- FLAT TO LET
- GROUND FLOOR
- HALL
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- ENERGY RATING E

£375 PCM + FEES

GORNAL
NAYLORS GROVE

- APARTMENT TO LET
- Ground floor
- Lounge • Fitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas C/HTG
- Double glazed
- Immaculate thr'out
- Energy rating C

£450 PCM + Fees

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Property

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Imposing detached on an exclusive development

BRUNSWICK Gate, Quarry Park Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge is a fine and imposing detached residence in an exclusive gated development.

It is for sale through Andrew Grant at £930,000. It has six bedrooms, detached triple garage and an outdoor heated spa pool.

This residence is in a prime development of properties approached through security gates.

The reception hall has a stunning centre staircase while the drawing room has a stone inglenook style feature fireplace and an integrated sound system. Contact Andrew Grant on 01384 370232 or visit the website at www.andrewgrant.co.uk

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GORNAL WOOD

Himley Road
* A Character detached cottage
* Walking distance to Gornal Village
* Open plan Living Room
* Extended upstairs over garage
* FOUR bedrooms
* Further scope for improvement
* Double garage
* EPC Rating - F

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £235,000

COSELEY

Summerhill Road
* A DETACHED bungalow
* Enhanced and upgraded throughout
* Breakfast Kitchen * Large Conservatory
* Lounge & Dining Room
* One bedrooms (can be converted back into a two bedroom)
* Delightful & Landscaped gardens
* Secure parking through electronic gates
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,950

COSELEY

Bradleys Lane
* An excellent size detached family home
* Full of character and charm
* Modern kitchen * Dining Room
* Conservatory
* Three bedrooms and bathroom
* Good size rear garden
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Garage
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950

COSELEY

Bridgewater Drive
* A FOUR bedroom detached
* Extended & enhanced
* Dining & breakfast kitchen
* Contemporary bathroom
* Utility room & guest w.c.
* Garage & off road parking
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950

LOWER GORNAL

Winrush Close
* A good size DETACHED property
* In an enviable cul-de-sac location
* An open plan lounge and dining kitchen
* THREE bedrooms, en-suite shower room
* Family bathroom
* UPVC double glazed windows
* Driveway with off road parking
* A good size rear garden and garage
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

SEDGLEY

Crown Close
* A beautifully presented end property
* Situated in walking distance to Sedgely
* Garage & off road parking
* An excellent size lounge
* Recently fitted modern kitchen
* Three bedrooms and bathroom
* Rear garden
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,500

COSELEY

Cox Road
* A 'Chalet' style semi-detached property
* Upgraded & enhanced accommodation
* EXTENDED dining kitchen
* Garage conversion
* Three bedrooms
* Bathroom & Shower Room
* Gas central heating
* Rear garden & Driveway
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950

COSELEY

Church Road
* A Traditional terrace property
* Deceptively spacious
* An open plan modern dining kitchen
* Lounge & Sitting Room
* Two good size bedrooms
* Loft Room (being used as a bedroom)
* Good size rear garden
* Driveway with parking for 2 cars
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

COSELEY

Eliot Croft
* A Modern semi-detached property
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* Large corner plot
* Lounge & Dining kitchen
* Two bedrooms
* Upvc double glazed
* Good size rear garden
* Off road parking for up to 3 cars
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,995

COSELEY

Brooklyn Grove
* A traditional semi-detached
* Near to Coseley train station
* Some cosmetic updating required
* Lounge & dining room
* Kitchen * Rear lobby * downstairs wc
* THREE bedrooms
* Rear garden * driveway
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,500

GORNAL WOOD

Himley Road
A substantial plot of land FOR SALE with planning permission for a two bedroom residential dwelling. The land currently has an existing detached double garage and the land itself has been grouted ready for development. (Guarantees available). Approximately 473m2 (square meters)

GUIDE PRICE £90,000

TIPTON

Thunderbolt Way
* A Modern second floor apartment
* Constructed in 2006
* TWO bedrooms
* Open plan lounge/dining room
* Modern Kitchen & bathroom
* One allocated parking space
* Gas central heating
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - tbc

£81,950

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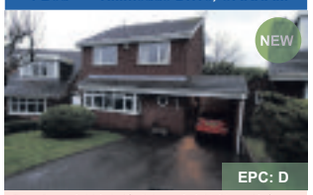
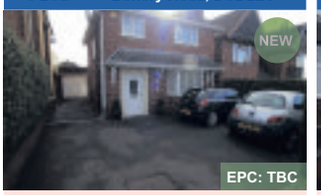
4 Bed Hillmeads Drive, OAKHAM



This well presented detached family home situated in this sought after location of Oakham benefits from excellent accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen and downstairs w.c., four good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Having ample off road parking, car port and garage, front and rear garden and being gas centrally heated and double glazed (both where stated), viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £229,950

3 Bed Buffery Road, DUDLEY



This immaculately presented and good sized traditional detached property benefits from accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, through lounge/diner and refitted kitchen, three good sized bedrooms and a modern family bathroom and the property is also gas centrally heated and double glazed, has off road parking to the fore with access to the garage and landscaped rear garden. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £169,950

3 Bed Trejon Road, CRADLEY HEATH

This traditional bay fronted detached home in need of minor cosmetic updating and has accommodation to comprise of a spacious entrance porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory and downstairs bathroom (which could be removed without a trace), three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Benefitting from gas centrally heating, double glazing, off road parking to the front, garage and good sized landscaped rear garden, an early viewing is a must!

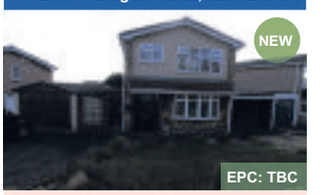
Netherton Office — Offers Around £159,950

3 Bed Belper Row, NETHERTON

Offering an excellent opportunity to the first time purchaser, this end terrace property comprises; Lounge, inner hall, fitted kitchen, conservatory, two first floor bedrooms, bathroom and second floor main bedroom. The rear garden is currently a low maintenance garden with decked seating area. Benefitting from double glazing and central heating where specified, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out! This property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £99,950

3 Bed Abingdon Road, NETHERTON



This well presented detached home is situated on this good sized corner plot within this sought after location comprising; Entrance hallway, through lounge/diner and modern kitchen, three bedrooms and a family bathroom and outside the property has ample off road parking, garage and potential addtional parking and car port area. Benefiting from warm air heating and double glazing, viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £169,950

2 Bed Victoria Gardens, CRADLEY HEATH

This modern, first floor apartment is conveniently situated within this established residential location close to most amenities and road and rail networks. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and benefitting from electric heating, double glazing and having allocated parking space within communal car park, an early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — £70,000

2 Bed Quayside Walk, NETHERTON

This immaculately presented ground floor apartment having excellent views over the canal and good access to canal side walks. Having accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms with ensuite to master and family bathroom and benefitting from allocated parking and communal garden areas. The property is double glazed and has electric panel heaters throughout. Viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £104,950

2 Bed Hingley Court, CRADLEY HEATH

This well presented first floor apartment is offered on a 50% shared ownership basis with the option to purchase further percentage shares if required. It comprises; Entrance hallway, two excellent sized double bedrooms, bathroom, 'L' shaped lounge through to fitted kitchen, and also benefits from being electrically heated and double glazed. There is allocated gated parking outside. Viewing is strongly recommended to fully appreciate.

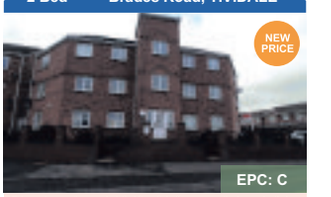
Netherton Office — Offers Around £49,950

3 Bed Hoylake Drive, TIVIDALE

●NEW PRICE OPEN VIEWING ON SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2014: 11am - 1pm! PLEASE COME ALONG● This 3/4 bedroom detached home situated in this popular and sought after location requires some internal updating but benefits from excellent sized accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hall, 'L' shaped lounge/diner, extended kitchen, downstairs w.c. and potential bedroom four/office space, three double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Having centrally heating, double glazing, off road parking, car port and garage early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out!

Netherton Office — Offers Invited Around £179,950

2 Bed Brades Road, TIVIDALE



This modern, well presented first floor flat offers an excellent opportunity to first time buyers or investors having the remainder of NHBC warranty and being available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. It comprises; Private entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. Having allocated parking to rear and being situated in this convenient location close to the canal basin, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.

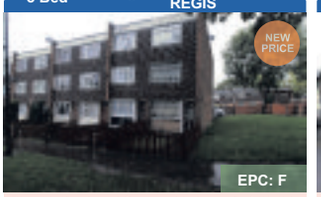
Netherton Office — Offers Over £84,950

3 Bed Jasmine Road, DUDLEY

An extremely well presented and tastefully decorated home offering an ideal purchase for both first time buyers or families. Briefly comprising, hallway, beautiful lounge, re-fitted kitchen, large downstairs bathroom, three good sized bedrooms, upstairs w.c. central heating, double glazing and family sized low maintenance garden, viewing is essential to appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer

Netherton Office — Offers Around £89,950

3 Bed Bridgefield Walk, ROWLEY REGIS



This good sized three storey end of terrace property has been recently refurbished but is in need of some finishing off, it comprises; Kitchen diner, rear hallway with downstairs w.c. off, to the first floor is a main bedroom and lounge and to the second floor there are two further bedrooms, family bathroom and study/storage area. Having a front garden and a concrete area providing off road parking or space for potted plants to the rear and available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, an early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £79,950

2 Bed Brook Lane, CRADLEY HEATH

Situated close to both Old Hill and Cradley Heath and all the amenities they have to offer, this semi-detached bungalow comprises; Entrance hall, spacious living room with dining area, inner hall, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Benefitting from garden to rear, allocated parking, central heating, double glazing and alarm, an early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £131,950

2 Bed Denbigh Close, DUDLEY

This well presented semi-detached home is situated in this popular residential location with good access to all local amenities. It has gas central heating, double glazing and benefits from accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. The property also benefits from off road parking, car port and front and rear gardens. An early viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out!

Netherton Office — Offers Around £118,500

3 Bed Wesley Close, CRADLEY HEATH

OPEN VIEWING ON SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2014 11am - 1pm. A beautifully presented and good sized end terraced property comprising; Entrance hallway, kitchen, lounge diner, three good sized bedrooms with an en-suite to the master bedroom and a separate house bathroom. Having gas centrally heating (Where stated), double glazing (Where stated), ample off road parking, integral garage and a rear garden! Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property!

Netherton Office — Offers Over £150,000

2 Bed Summerton Road, TIVIDALE

This ground floor apartment on the 'Coppice Gate' development has accommodation to comprise: Lounge, kitchen, two Bedrooms, and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, storage heaters, and designated off road parking. Being conveniently situated, a viewing is highly recommended for either first time buyers or buy to let investors - this apartment has been let for a number of years at £475 p.c.m.

Netherton Office — Offers Invited £79,950

2 Bed Cecil Drive, TIVIDALE

This immaculately presented semi-detached home situated in this quiet residential location has gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Benefitting from ample off road parking and front and rear gardens, viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property!

Netherton Office — Offers Around £105,000

3 Bed Kingsley Street, NETHERTON

This three storey traditional terraced home is situated in this convenient backwater location has accommodation to comprise of; Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and a family shower room to the first floor with stairs rising to the loft conversion providing a third bedroom. Having gas centrally heating, double glazing and courtyard style rear garden, viewing is recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer.

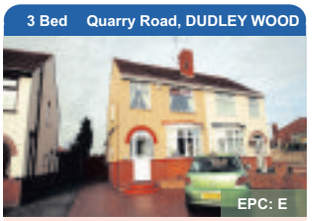
Netherton Office — Offers Around £84,950

3 Bed Cecil Drive, TIVIDALE

This much improved and heavily extended semi-detached home has excellent accommodation to comprise; Entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, dining room and playroom, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Benefting from gas centrally heating, double glazing, ample off road parking and rear garden, an early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £139,950

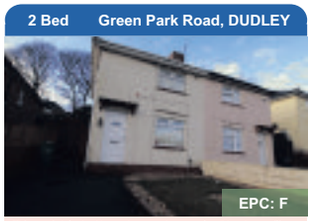
3 Bed Quarry Road, DUDLEY WOOD



This immaculately presented traditional semi detached property has accommodation comprising of; Entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom/wc. Externally there is a beautiful rear garden with a games room at the rear of the garden and a blocked paved driveway providing off road parking.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £155,000

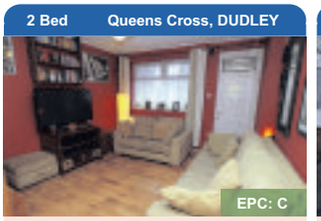
2 Bed Green Park Road, DUDLEY



This semi-detached home has good access to all local amenities and road network and comprises; Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c. and two bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. The property also benefits from off road parking, front and rear gardens, gas central heating and double glazing. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, early viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers in Excess Of £75,000

2 Bed Queens Cross, DUDLEY



This well presented traditional terraced home offers deceptively spacious accommodation to comprise of; Lounge, kitchen diner, two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property also benefits from a floored attic room and two cellar rooms. Benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing, viewing is a must to fully appreciate.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £89,950

3 Bed Highfield Crescent, BLACKHEATH

This well presented traditional semi-detached family home situated in this quiet cul-de-sac has accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, downstairs w.c., three good sized bedrooms and a shower room. The property also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed, has garage to the rear of the property and front and rear gardens. Viewing is recommended to fully appreciate this property.

Netherton Office — Fixed Price £125,000

3 Bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

A superb and well presented detached property located in the heart of Netherton village and benefitting from spacious accommodation comprising of: entrance hall, DOWNSTAIRS W.C., dining room, beautiful fitted kitchen, lounge, EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM, rear garden, off road parking for two cars, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is a must to fully appreciate this family home! NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £149,950

2 Bed Pedmore Road, DUDLEY

Immaculately presented and good sized end of terrace home having good sized accommodation comprising; Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen diner, two good sized bedrooms and modern refitted family bathroom. It also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed, has ample off road parking for up to four vehicles and has good sized rear garden ideal for summer BBQs. Viewing is a must!

Netherton Office — Offers Around £97,500

Website : www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

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Select Property Management Ltd

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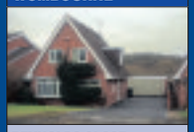
WOMBOURNE



REYNOLDS CLOSE
FOR SALE £300,000*
Detached Property, Entrance Hall & Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage/Workshop, Gas Central Heating and Partial Double Glazing.

PENSNETT

NEW

TANSEY GREEN ROAD
£530 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Garage at rear, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

HULLAND PLACE
£575 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

NEW

CORBYNS HALL ROAD
£540 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens

WORDSLEY

NEW

CROWNOAKES DRIVE
£585 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Maintained Gardens, Off Road Parking

NETHERTON

NEW

PURLIN WHARF
£550 pcm*
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, · Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

SEDGLEY

NEW

VALLEY ROAD
£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Large Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front, Side & Rear Gardens

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

ADELAIDE STREET
£495 pcm*
Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

SEDGLEY

NEW

QUEENS ROAD
£796 pcm*
Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Parking for 2 cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

WOMBOURNE

NEW

COMMON ROAD
£595 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Large Lounge, Good Sized Kitchen/ Diner, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking at Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

TRINITY STREET

NEW

CRADLEY HEATH
£550 pcm*
Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Diner, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Cellar, Rear Garden

DUDLEY

NEW

HAWKESLEY ROAD
£475 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, · Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

WOLLASTON

NEW

HIGH STREET
£125 pw*
Shop Premises. Main Shop on 2 Levels, Room at Rear, Kitchen & WC Facilities, Parking for 1 Car and Small Rear Garden. Electric Heating, Double Glazed Shop Window.

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

PENZER STREET
£595 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

NEW

PRIMROSE PARK
£550 pcm*
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Garden to Rear, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

TIVIDALE

NEW

OAKTHORPE GARDENS
£450 pcm*
Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

WILLENHALL

MILL LANE
£495 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Parking

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET
£535 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Single Garage

KINGSWINFORD

RANGEWAYS ROAD
£490 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Garage

PENSNETT

AVON CLOSE
£585 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

SEDGLEY

KINGS ROAD
£525 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

CAMBERLEY ROAD
£675 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

HALESOWEN

CLIFTON ROAD
£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

QUEEN STREET
£475 pcm*
Large First Floor Flat. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Walk in Cupboard, Double Glazing, Part Furnished, Maintained Gardens. No DSS.

(*Administration/application fees will apply)

NO LET NO FEE

NO SALE NO FEE

60a Manor Park, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8AG
www.selectsalesandlettings.com

Property

Extended five-bedroom semi-detached home

AN extended five-bedroom semi-detached property in a highly regarded village location adjoining open fields to the rear is available.

Priced £239,950, 37 Westhead Road, Cookley, has a lounge, separate dining room to rear, kitchen, large utility area, integral garage with pit, five excellent bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC.

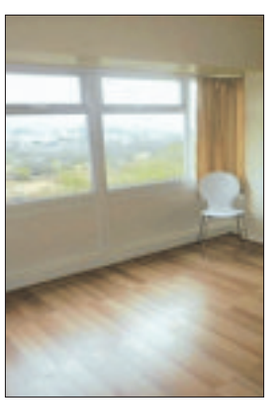
This extended house has large rear garden,which enjoys a sunny south-westerly aspect and directly adjoins grazing meadows to the rear at Lea Castle Farm. Call Allan, Morris and Jones on 01562 747755 for details.

This maisonette comes with some great views

A part-furnished first floor two bedroomed maisonette in Hermit Street, Upper Gornal, Dudley is available to rent through Trinity Property at £450 pcm (£104 pw).

A non-estate home which is not overlooked from the rear, has great views from the front and gardens it's accommodation briefly comprises a fitted kitchen with wood effect units and contrasting work surfaces, a sink and wood effect flooring, a lounge with wood effect flooring, windows giving views, a brick chimney breast and stove, two double bedrooms, a bathroom and secure entry.

It is available now. Contact Trinity Property of 21 Wolverhampton St, Dudley on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



PTN ESTATES

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Sales: 01384 355233 Lettings: 01384 345268
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Following 12 successful years of lettings, PTN Estates are proud to announce that we are branching out in to residential sales with the appointment of an experienced local estate agent.

"Our aim is to provide a friendly, independent one-stop-shop service by combining sales and lettings with independent mortgage advice."

"The marketplace is becoming very exciting and this should be a great year for buyers, sellers and investors alike. With property prices set to increase, now is a brilliant time to be moving and we want to help people from all walks of life so bringing sales on board was a must for us."

We strive to provide the highest level of customer service and knowledge combined with all the usual high quality marketing material you could expect, and require homes in DY1 through to DY8 to help kick start our sales business. As part of our launch we will be offering £500 discount off our standard agency fees to any homeowner who instructs us to sell their home on or before 31st March 2014.

In addition, any home owner who instructs us to sell and then recommends a friend or family member will receive Merry Hill shopping vouchers to the value of £100*.

If you are thinking of moving and would like free, no obligation advice from our team, please contact us now.

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Jan Chappell
Lettings Director

Sarah Whitcombe
Lettings Director

Nick Westwood
Sales & Valuations Manager

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Administrator

**Terms and Conditions apply. Merry Hill shopping vouchers are to the value of £100 total per referral not per party. Subject to availability, no limitation on referrals.*
Only to be claimed upon successful completion of the referred property and must be sold by PTN Estates.

Taylors

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BRIERLEY HILL	84-86 High Street	01384 265265
STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Wombourne Village

Planks Lane

NO UPWARD CHAIN

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL & LARGE DETACHED 'PERIOD' COTTAGE, well placed within the heart of Wombourne village, offering a GENEROUS layout of three-storey accommodation, all VERY WELL PRESENTED throughout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge with bay and open fireplace, separate Dining Room, large Breakfast Kitchen with appliances, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS (loft bedroom with En-Suite WC) and large Bathroom. GENEROUS DRIVEWAY, lawned side garden and attractively landscaped 'cottage' style front garden. EPC Rating: F. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£239,950

Kingswinford

NO UPWARD CHAIN

Barnett Green

This SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW SPACIOUS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE enjoys this favoured location just off Barnett Lane, being well placed for Kingswinford's favoured schools and offers: Inner Hall with Cloaks/ Toilet off, SPLENDID 16' x 13'6" LOUNGE, separate Dining Room, refitted Kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, attractive tiled Bathroom, updated GAS CENTRAL HEATING and PART UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Long lawn and drive alongside, CARPORT, GARAGE and pleasantly secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£164,950

UPPER GORNAL

The Paddock

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this immaculately presented, traditional style, uPVC double glazed, part centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached family home has been fastidiously maintained by the current owner, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The impressive property briefly comprises: Entrance porch, hall, stylish through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, block paved driveway and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950

WOODSETTON

Shenley Avenue

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, and particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either uPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached in favoured "backwater". Presented in exemplary order the superb accommodation includes; enlarged entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 25 ft through living room/dining room (possibilities of re-subdivision?), extended breakfast kitchen. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Lengthy 21'4" garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

Kingswinford

MASTER WITH EN-SUITE

Chestnut Grove

A TWO BEDROOMED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM, superbly located within a small 'cul-de-sac' approached from Ketley Road, offering an ATTRACTIVELY RE-APPOINTED layout which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprises: Reception Hall, large full width Lounge-with-Dining Area, spacious refitted Breakfast Kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS (Master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and refitted Bathroom. DRIVEWAY/PARKING to the fore and a GOOD SIZED SUNNY REAR GARDEN with outbuilding/Utility. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£127,950

SEDGLEY

Fir Tree Drive

This beautifully presented, modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom semi detached home has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners and is welll worthy of internal inspection. The impressive property briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of units, two good bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom with white suite, driveway and a pleasant rear garden enjoying a southerly aspect. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £126,950

Kingswinford

Broad Street

This rare DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY in this established residential address well placed for town amenities, comprises a TRADITIONAL DETACHED FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE requiring REPAIR and REFURBISHMENT (reports available) set in generous gardens, but also with POTENTIAL FOR DEMOLITION and REPLACEMENT WITH A DETACHED or PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES (subject to planning consent being granted). CASH OFFERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO TAYLORS KINGSWINFORD OFFICE BY 5.30pm FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2014. EPC Rating: TBA. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

Offers in Excess of £120,000

COSELEY

Paul Street, Hurst Hill

A PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end "starter home" (originally designed to accommodate 3 bedrooms thus ensuring generous size of accommodation) presented in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation includes; reception hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of "beech" effect units & various integrated appliances, transverse lounge. Substantial brick/ uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, further double bedroom, bathroom.Sheltered/landscaped rear garden, block paved foregarden (two car parking). EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950

WOODCROSS

Kossuth Road.

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom property is available with no upward chain, and may represent an ideal first time buy. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, extended 'L' shape dining kitchen, attached utility, three good bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and a lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

PENSNETT

Chelmar Drive

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may appeal to both first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c, three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lawned gardens, and gated parking to rear. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384265265.

£99,950

COSELEY

Hessian Close

This neatly presented traditional style uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is available with no upward chain, and may appeal to both young families and first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, attached utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc and a good sized rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

SEDGLEY

Bilston Street, Claremont Cottages

An enviably situated intermediate bungalow with potential positioned within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Upvc double glazing. The accommodation comprises; reception hall, cloaks, kitchen, 'L' shape lounge/dining room (with patio doors), double bedroom, upgraded shower room with white suite. Neat rear garden, tarmacadammed parking. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

NETHERTON

Heath Road

This uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom mid terrace property is situated in a popular residential location, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN, three well proportioned bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, driveway, and a GOOD SIZE rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£86,950

Brierley Hill

Dadford View

Enjoying a first floor position within this now established modern development, just a short distance from local amenities and canal walks, this RATHER WELL ARRANGED, TWO BEDROOM FLAT should interest first time buyers and affords a layout with DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Communal Hall with stairs, Flats own Reception hall, Pleasant Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS and Delightful White Bathroom. Communal Gardens and Grounds and Allocated Parking Space. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£69,950

DUDLEY

Snowshill Gardens

Enviably situated in favoured cul de sac just off Richborough Drive, an attractive, freehold, gas centrally heated & part uPVC double glazed detached family residence comprising traditional 14'3" reception hall, store, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room,16'9" breakfast/kitchen, brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Four generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, gardens (abutting onto adopted open space at rear). EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,950

WOODSETTON

Tamar Drive

A distinctive significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached family home, enviably situated upon popular development with open aspect. A personal inspection is considered imperative for full appreciation of this distinctive property which comprises Entrance Hall, Reception hall, Fitted Cloakroom, further store, 22 ft through living/dining room with bay and patio doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted 16ft 9" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'contemporary style' units and various integrated appliances patio doors to outside. Principle 19ft 4" through bedroom possibilities of sub division to create en suite shower room?, 3 further bedrooms, bathroom, garage delightful landscape rear garden, blocked paved drive. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,500

Dudley

NO UPWARD CHAIN

Abbotsford Drive

Superbly located, this SUBSTANTIAL and DECEPTIVE DETACHED 'DORMER' FAMILY HOME enjoys a desirable location and an EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PROPORTIONED layout of FLEXIBLE & QUALITY accommodation, comprising: Large central Reception Hall with 'light oak' staircase, generous 22' : full depth Lounge with Dining Area, CONSERVATORY/GARDEN ROOM, spacious Breakfast Kitchen with built-in appliances, ground floor WC, ground floor BEDROOM 3/Office, TWO LARGE DOUBLE FITTED FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS and spacious 'Heritage' Bathroom with separate shower. GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING. Front garden, BROAD DRIVEWAY, LARGE GARAGE and a LARGE LEVEL REAR GARDEN with decking and lawns. EPC Rating: E KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£199,950

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
HALESOWEN 21 Hagley Road 0121 550 3978
SEDGLEY 2A Dudley Street 01902 880888

Taylors
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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

DUDLEY

Richborough Drive

A quite exceptional highly individual and tremendously enhanced FREEHOLD gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached enviably situated head of convenient cul-de-sac with PANARAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Enhanced accommodation provides superb refitted kitchen with various integrated appliances and granite work surfaces, transverse lounge and CONSERVATORY beyond, former garage subdivided to create utility room and occasional fourth bedroom. To the first floor is a principle bedroom with STEAM ROOM en suite and two further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking, landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the region of £ 189,950

LOWER GORNAL

Straits Road

This modern style, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home would now ideally benefit from certain cosmetic modernisation/improvement yet offers excellent potential & is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The surprisingly spacious property comprises entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, CONSERVATORY, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom, larger than average garage, driveway & gardens to three sides. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

SEDGLEY

Longmeadow Drive, Northway

RARE OPPORTUNITY! A freehold, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed detached bungalow requiring some sympathetic updating in favoured district where bungalows are only rarely made available for sale. Accommodation provides reception hall, cloaks cupboard, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lounge, dining room, garden room, upgraded kitchen, carport, garage, gardens arranged for 'minimum' maintenance. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £175,000

QUARRY BANK

Edwinstowe Close

This MODERN STYLE, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM detached family home is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c, four bedrooms (with en-suite to master), bathroom with a white suite, allocated parking, and rear garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£165,000

Kingswinford

£5,000 REDUCTION

Beeches Close

Delightfully located within this superb cul de sac setting, just a short walk from the heart of Kingswinford, this SUCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW MOST IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE requires updating and improvement, but provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL to enhance the HUGE LAYOUT, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, extended lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, office / games room, ground floor W.C., FOUR FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING. Set back beyond the BROAD DRIVEWAY to the fore and enjoying a broad, attractive rear garden. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£154,950

COSELEY

Elmdale Road, Bramford Estate

Absolutely outstanding faultlessly appointed and exceptionally stylish ENLARGED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years to an exemplary specification. Accommodation provides enlarged porch, reception hall, store, 22ft 9" through living/dining room with bay and double opening french doors to garden, refitted kitchen with fine range of 'maple' units and various integrated appliances further utility room (with matching 'maple effect' units), 3 bedrooms, reappointed with white contemporary style suite with 'whirlpool' bath substantial garage, block paved foregarden, sheltered landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

GOffers in the region of £154,950

Wordsley

Meadowfields Close

A SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, VERY WELL PRESENTED AND THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoying a very pleasant cul de sac setting and offering VERY SPACIOUS accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, inner hall / dining room, spacious 'L' shaped lounge with dining / study area, extended kitchen with built-in appliances, utility room, THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS and attractively refitted shower room. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE / STORE and attractively laid out rear garden. EPC Rating E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950

SEDGLEY

Richmond Road

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED an tremendously improved freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, rear sitting room(wood stripped floor) with patio doors, extended L shape breakfast kitchen refitted with a fine range of 'contemporary' style units, pantry, lobby, utility room, separate toilet. Three bedrooms re appointed bathroom with white traditionally styled suite (velux skylight installed to roof space providing significant further potential). Narrow garage, garden. EPC. Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

PENSNETT

Commonside

This considerably extended, significantly improved, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, five bedroomed Semi Detached Home provides truly versatile family space, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The impressive property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, splendid through Lounge / Dining Room, extended Kitchen with a fine range of units, Garden Room, five good Bedrooms, Bathroom, Block Paved Driveway, Garage and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£139,950

LOWER GORNAL

Bank Road

Only recently constructed - a gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached by renowned local builder covered by architect's certification & situated within immediate distance of the village & all associated amenities. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted cloakroom, well equipped kitchen with various integrated appliances, living/dining room (with double opening French doors to outside), understairs cupboard, three bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, extensive parking, neat turfed & fenced gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £135,000

HOLLY HALL

Fullwood Crescent

This immaculately presented, much improved, uPVC Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM Semi Detached family home has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The stylish property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Hall, stylish Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen with a fine range of units / integrated appliances, splendid Conservatory addition, Guest WC, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, Re- Fitted Bathroom with white "JACUZZI" Suite, large Garage, Driveway and a pleasant Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£134,950

LOWER GORNAL

Wealdstone Drive

A stylish exceptionally well presented and conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' conveniently situated in favoured district. Accommodation provides glazed entrance vestibule. store, lounge, upgrade breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, bathroom, neat gardens with TARMACADAM parking for two cars 'at the rear' EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,500

SEDGLEY

Claremont Road

A gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate terrace of character with various original period features (fireplaces, doors, etc.) excellent situated within walking distance of the Bull Ring & open fields. Accommodation includes dining room with bay, lobby, sitting, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, two double bedrooms. Delightful sheltered rear garden & substantial concrete panel WORKROOM/STORE (light & power & rear pedestrian access). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

PENSNETT

Chapel Street

This well presented, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may especially appeal to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, guest w.c, fabulous CONSERVATORY ADDITION, three good bedrooms, bathroom, block paved driveway providing ample parking, and a lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£104,950

COSELEY

NEW PRICE

Cox Road

A comparatively spacious, freehold, significantly modernised & improved, RECENTLY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached in relatively quiet 'backwater'. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & a large cupboard off. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & a shower, separate toilet, further stores. GARAGE (rear vehicular access), neat gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £107,450 ,NOW £104,950

LOWER GORNAL

Central Drive

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A conscientiously maintained, modernised & significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end 'starter home' in established district with good distant views. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen with various appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, gardens. EPC Rating: D.

BUYERS LEGAL FEES PAID TO A MAXIMUM OF £600.00

SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

COSELEY

Hinchliffe Avenue

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, and double glazed (part uPVC/part aluminum casements) semi detached with rare advantage of additional gated side space offering potential. Accommodation includes; hall, storage cupboard, refitted kitchen, extended 18'8" living/dining room, three bedrooms, reappointed shower room (former bathroom) with stylish white suite. Garage, parking, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

Brierley Hill

Bank Street

This deceptively spacious, Victorian style, majority Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM mid terrace property is situated in an established residential location, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge with Bay, Dining Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Shower Room, TWO FIRST FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, SECOND FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOM and Rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£99,950

BROCKMOOR

Newtown

This uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Two Bedroom End Terrace is situated in an established residential location and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. Accommodation briefly comprises: pleasant Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Two good sized Bedrooms, modern Bathroom, ample Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£94,950

Brierley Hill

Fisher Street

This traditional style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM Semi Detached home is situated in an established residential location, and may appeal to both FIRST TIME BUYERS and young families alike. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with white suite, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, upstairs WC, Block Paved Driveway and REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,950

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KINGSWINFORD

WATER STREET

EXTENDED!!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed extended semi detached property located in desirable area & comprises entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen having integrated appliances, utility room, ground floor cloakroom, garage, landing, three bedrooms & family bathroom. Externally having enclosed rear garden & driveway. EPC Rating - D

£205,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

BLACKACRE ROAD

MODERNIZED & FIVE BEDROOMS! A modernized five bedroom detached property comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, landing, bedroom one having en-suite, garage, corner plot, further parking to the rear & no upward chain. EPC rating awaited

£190,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

DARBYS HILL ROAD

MUST BE VIEWED! A considerably improved two bedroom detached bungalow comprising entrance porch, lounge, inner hallway, refitted four peice bathroom, fitted kitchen/diner & conservatory. Externally driveway parking having gated entrance to garage & rear garden comprising lawn & patio. EPC Rating Awaited

£179,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

OAKHAM AVENUE

BRAND NEW TO THE MARKET! A double glazed, gas centrally heated & improved three bedroom bay fronted semi detached located in the desirable Oakham area. Approached via driveway parking for many vehicles the property comprises entrance porch, entrance hallway, through lounge/dining room & extended fitted kitchen to the ground floor, landing, three bedrooms and four piece bathroom to the first floor. The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with patio. Viewing recommended. EPC Rating D

£164,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

GOODRICH MEWS

A Modern three bedroom 2.5 storey townhouse having garage, parking & enclose rear garden externally & comprising entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, rear lounge/dining room, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, landing, en-suite, master bedroom. Other features include gas central heating & double glazing, viewing highly recommended. EPC rating B

£142,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

WOODSETTON

BENNETT AVENUE

An improved bay fronted semi detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, lounge, dining room/fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having extensive rear garden & driveway parking. EPC Rating awaited

£140,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

DEEPDALE LANE

well presented extended link semi-detached property having the benefit also of extra living areas comprising bathroom and open lounge with bedroom area accessed either via the hallway or by garden entrance. The main residence comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, utility room to the ground floor, whilst upstairs there are three bedrooms and shower room. Externally block paved driveway along with garden. The property benefits from gas central heating system and double

£139,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

BROOKES CLOSE

A MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HAVING GARAGE & NO CHAIN! A double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached located at the top of this modern cul-de-sac & is approached via driveway parking to garage & leads to the property comprises entrance hall, ground floor cloakroom, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. To the rear the garden is paved with lawn beyond. EPC - C

£130,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OLDBURY

EMBASSY ROAD

A modern style mid terraced comprising entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, rear lounge, landing, two bedrooms and the house bathroom.. To the outside comprising enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn & driveway parking. EPC Rating awaited.

£114,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

ASTON ROAD

GOOD DECORATIVE ORDER THROUGHOUT & BLOCK PAVED DRIVE! A double glazed & gas centrally heated two bedroom property having been improved by the current owner & comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen to the ground floor, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor. Externally the property comprises enclosed rear garden & driveway. EPC - D

£113,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON

GOLDEN HILLOCK ROAD

An improved three bedroom semi detached having driveway providing parking for many vehicles leading to the property comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. To the rear having enclosed rear garden & garage. EPC rating awaited

£110,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

HOLLY RD

THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY HAVING A CONSERVATORY.This gas centrally hated & double glazed property has no chain & comprises entrance hall, bathroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms. EPC - E

£94,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

MONCRIEFFE CLOSE

An imprpved two bedroom duplex apartment comprising entrance hall,, lounge/dining room, kitchen, landing, two bedrooms, shower room. Externally having communal gardens & allocated parking.

£90,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

PENSNETT

SWAN STREET

This three bedroom property has no upward chain. Accessed via front into an entrance hall there are stairs off to the first floor and a door leading to the lounge. Beyond the lounge is a kitchen with built in oven and hob plus wall mounted gas fired boiler and space for appliances. A door gives access to the utility room which in turn gives access to the separate WC plus door to the rear garden. The first floor landing gives access to the three bedroom and bathroom. EPC - D

£94,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

BRINDLEFIELDS WAY

Well presented two bedroom mid town house to which an early viewing is recommended. We are pleased to market this gas central heated and double glazed mid town house comprising to the groundfloor of entrance hall, kitchen and lounge whilst to the first floor there are two bedrooms and a bathroom/wc. Externally there is parking and rear garden. EPC Rating Is Grade D

£90,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

SPRING PARKLANDS

●●FAMILY HOME● A good sized family home situated on this popular estate, with easy access to Dudley, Merry Hill and Russells Hall Hospital the property comprises reception room, dining room, kitchen, 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom,

£575 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GRENVILLE ROAD

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Semi●Located On The Popular Russells Hall Development●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Drive●Available Late Mar

£550 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON

STONEY LANE

This is a beautifully presented double glazed & centrally heated three bedroom property. The ground floor comprises lounge leading to conservatory, kitchen leading to extended dining room. To the first floor the landing leads to three bedrooms and bathroom.

£595 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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DUDLEY

QUEENS CROSS

EPC - D. A Lovely two bedroom property located in close proximity of Dudley town & comprises lounge, large kitchen diner, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom. There is parking provided to the rear of the property

£475 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

CROMWELL STREET

GREAT VALUE Modern Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a Cul-de-Sac location,. The property comprises Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Garden to Rear and Driveway to Front. EPC AWAITED

£475 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached ●Two Double Bedrooms ●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing ●Drive●Beautifully Presented

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

THE BROADWAY

A Traditional Detached Family Residence Being Located Close To The Town Centre And Having Accommodation Briefly Comprising Of Through Lounge/Dining Room, Further Reception Room, Kitchen With Utility And Downstairs Toilet. Three

£650 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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COSELEY
Ivyhouse Lane

NEW INSTRUCTION

BACK ON THE MARKET - PRICED TO SELL FAST Converted from a three bedroom house to a two bedroom house with an exceptionally large bathroom this deceptively spacious traditional "butt" style house with many original features and accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, dining room, larger than average fitted kitchen, sun room, workshop, downstairs wc, large bathroom, separate wc, driveway and an extensive garden to the rear EPC = D

£112,500

Wednesbury
Teal Grove

NEW INSTRUCTION

Beautifully presented and priced to sell! This three bedroom detached house has a lot to offer. Having a modern fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, downstairs wc, family bathroom, front and rear garden and a garage. EPC = D

£150,000

Netherton
Dudley Wood Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

Beautifully presented and with TWO separate garages! This three bedroom semi detached house really is a must view. Briefly comprising lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, master bedroom having en-suite wc, driveway, two garages one being detached at the back of the property. EPC = D

£129,950

Tipton
Sannders Crescent

A beautifully presented three bedroom three storey semi detached. Briefly comprising downstairs wc, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, master bedroom having a dressing room and en suite. Rear garden, garage to the rear and off road parking. EPC = C

£129,950

Dudley
Occupation Street

Recently refurbished two bedroom mid terraced house. Having two DOUBLE bedrooms and two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen and a downstairs bathroom suite, rear garden and NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC = F

£79,950

Lower Gornal
Holloway Street

NEW PRICE

This four bedroom detached house is like a show home and has so much to offer that viewing is essential. Located on the David Wilson estate in Gornal it is within walking distance to the village and has excellent schools close by yet you can be in the countryside within a short drive. EPC = C

£240,000

NETHERTON
Gads Green

NEW INSTRUCTION

A beautifully presented, spacious four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of downstairs WC lounge with a walk-in-bay, dining room with patio doors to the rear garden, modern fitted kitchen with breakfast area, spacious master bedroom having fitted wardrobes and en-suite, family bathroom, garage with internal access. Delightful large rear garden with a patio area and ample off road parking. EPC = C

£239,950

Tipton
Bagnalls Wharf

Located on the "Hodkins Place" Barratt Homes estate this immaculate two bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprises of hallway, lounge with kitchen area, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking and a secure entry system. EPC = D

£79,950

Dudley
Buffery Road

This detached family home offers three bedrooms and has great access to motorway links, local schools, buffery park and local shops. Viewing is highly recoommended. EPC =

£169,950

Tividale
Raby Close

Located on the popular red lion estate this demanded three bedroom semi detached house offers a dining kitchen, driveway and rear garden. There are shops within walking distance and public transport links within easy reach. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC = D

£122,000

Brierley Hill
Elgar Crescent

Bigger than it looks! This beautifully presented three bedroom detached really is a must view! With a large lounge and a generous size kitchen/dining room with a archway through to a conservatory a separate utility room with a downstairs wc this house makes for a perfect family home. Outside there is a private rear garden, garage and a driveway.

£169,950

Sedgley
Queens Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A well presented three bed detached property in a popular area, with good local transport links and near to local amenities. With double glazing and central heating, downstairs WC, lounge with patio doors to the garden, separate lounge, fitted kitchen. Upstairs has three bedrooms with house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Private rear garden, off road parking and single garage with front and side access. Viewing recommended. EPC = D

£179,950

NETHERTON
Cradley Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

Extended two bedroom semi detached tardis! This property really is bigger than it looks. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising lounge, second reception room, extended kitchen/breakfast room, shower room. Beautiful rear garden and a driveway to the front. EPC Ordered

£124,950

Netherton
Castleton Street

Off road parking to the rear!! This extended two bedroom semi detached house has lots of space to offer. Located in the heart of Netherton town centre with shops within walking distance along with public transport links and easy access to the motorway corridors. The property briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, cellar, dining kitchen with inter-grated cooker, washing machine, dishwasher and fridge, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms and a garden to the rear. EPC = D

£85,500

Dudley
Cromwell Drive

Recently modernised throughout and offering a modern kitchen and two reception rooms this three bedroom semi detached house has been priced to sell fast so you must view now. Close to the Oakham Road with great schools and shops in walking distance. EPC = C

£97,000

BILSTON
Whitegates Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

Realistically priced!! This three bedroom detached really is a must view!! Briefly comprising lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom with a separate wc, rear garden, garage and a driveway. EPC = G

£140,000

TIPTON
Edwards Fisher

Corner plot location! Ample off road parking that could facilitate a caravan. Walking distance to Tipton train station. This property also benefits from a entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/dining room, en-suite and family bathroom, rear garden. No upward chain!

£116,950

DUDLEY
Buffery Road

This detached bungalow really is a must view with two double bedrooms having a generous size kitchen and garden and being located close to the local park, good schools, shops and easy access to transport links. There is no upward chain. EPC = E

£149,950

WEDNESBURY
Charlotte Road

Beautifully presented and having a lovely conservatory this three bedroom semi detached really is a must view! Having open plan kitchen/dining room with french style doors which open on to the conservatory. No upward chain. EPC = C

£114,950

DUDLEY
Attingham Drive

A modern one bedroom freehold house with hallway, open plan lounge and kitchen with french door to balcony, mezzanine floor, shower room and allocated parking space. EPC = C

£89,950

DUDLEY
Scotts Green Close

This detached three bedroom house is within walking distance to Russells Hall hospital and has great schools close by along with easy access to motorway links. A great family home so call now to arrange your viewing. EPC = D

£149,950

Drivetime

Swift flies into UK market

By Graham Breeze

THE 4X4 sector is traditionally packed with massive and expensive models – equally at home on the farm track or outside the school gate.

So it is refreshing to see Suzuki clambering for a share of the UK market with the diminutive Swift 4X4.

The model has already enjoyed success in Europe and Suzuki bosses are confident that this unconventional supermini can fill a void over here, appealing to those needing a car with more traction during the winter months, but not wanting a conventional SUV.

The 4x4 is available with five doors and with the 93bhp 1.2-litre petrol engine from the regular Swift. It comes with a choice of two trims – SZ3 and SZ4.

The difference in appearance is minimal though the 4X4 is 65kg heavier than the two-wheel-drive version and ride height is 25mm higher but he overall ground clearance is identical to the regular Swift which tends to defeat the object a little.

There was no doubting that the test model – a 1.2 SZ4 – could cope with a bit of farm tracking, but even Suzuki don't claim this is a real off-roader and it lacks a low-ratio gearbox. But it will help you cope with the frost and snow and might just get you where you want to go when lots of others fail.

On the road there was very little difference from the regular model, though the extra weight meant that the driver had to work even harder to produce results.

The 4x4 is available in SZ3 or SZ4 trim, and both versions are well-equipped. SZ3 models get seven airbags, electric front windows, air-conditioning, heated door mirrors, and a four-speaker stereo with Bluetooth and a USB input.

Along with extra plastic cladding and skid plates, SZ4 models get climate control, automatic headlights, keyless entry and start, electric rear windows and cruise control.

The cabin is identical to the Swift two-wheel-drive model's with the same smart-looking and simple dashboard.

There is good all-round visibility and most height-adjustable driver's seat and steering wheel. SZ4 cars also have reach adjustment for the wheel.

The Swift may have enough room for four but there isn't enough space in the boot for very much luggage and the SZ4 got nowhere near the golf club test.

Power to all four wheels doesn't lead to much damage to fuel consumption figures, with just a loss of 5mpg to see average figures drop to 51.3mpg.

All models get seven airbags, electric front windows, air-conditioning, heated door mirrors, and a four-speaker stereo with Bluetooth and a USB input. The SZ4 gets extra plastic cladding and skid plates, climate control, automatic headlights, keyless entry and start, electric rear windows and cruise control.

Suzuki are really testing the UK water with this model, a model sold in over 100 countries.

The question is whether the addition of 4X4 will attract buyers from the more conventional markets. There's little evidence that there are enough changes to gain this model significant sales in the UK.

TESTED

Suzuki Swift SZ4

Model: 1.2, 5 door

Cost: £16,169

Top speed: 103mph

0-62mph: 13.4secs

CO2 emissions: 126g/km

Combined fuel: 54.3mpg

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2009 (09 Reg) Jeep Wrangler SAHARA UNLIMITED 2.8L 4 door, Green, Diesel, 13,000 miles £15,000

2008 (58 Reg) Nissan Qashqai VISIA 1.6L 5 door, Silver, 41,000 miles £7,990

2010 (60 Reg) SEAT Ibiza CR TDI SE 1.6L 5 door, Red, Diesel, 45,000 miles £7,490

2010 (60 Reg) Renault Clio DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM TCE 1.1L 5 door, Blue, 22,000 miles £7,490

2008 (08 Reg) Vauxhall Zafira ELITE CDTI 1.9L 5 door, Black, Diesel, 58,000 miles £6,990

2010 (59 Reg) Peugeot 30 SW SPORT HDI 1.6L 5 door, Red, Diesel, 61,000 miles £6,890

2011 (11 Reg) Ford Fiesta ZETEC 1.2L 3 door, White, 59,000 miles £6,690

2010 (60 Reg) Citroen Nemo 8V HDI 1.4L 5 door, Blue, Diesel, 13,000 miles £6,690

2006 (06 Reg) Kia Sorento XS CRDI 2.5L 5 door, Black, Diesel, 90,000 miles Was £7,490 Now £6,490

2009 (09 Reg) Ford Focus ZETEC 1.6L 38,000 miles £6,490

2012 (12 Reg) Vauxhall Agila S 1.2L 5 door, Red, 11,000 miles £6,490

2010 (60 Reg) Renault Megane DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM VVT 1.6L 5 door, Blue, 16,000 miles £6,490

2007 (07 Reg) Renault Kangoo Authentique (Euro 4) 1.1L 5 door, Grey, 24,000 miles £5,990

2010 (10 Reg) Vauxhall Corsa SXI A/C 1.2L 3 door, Silver, 47,000 miles £5,990

2007 (57 Reg) SEAT Altea FREETRACK TDI DPF 2.0L 5 door, Black, Diesel, 70,000 miles £5,990

2008 (08 Reg) Citroen C4 Grand Picasso VTR PLUS HDI EGS 1.6L 5 door, Brown, Diesel, 66,000 miles £5,990

2010 (60 Reg) Chevrolet Spark LS PLUS 1.2L 5 door, Blue, 13,000 miles £5,690

MINI Hatch COOPER 1.6L 3 door, Black, 65,000 miles Was £6,699 Now £5,590

2009 (59 Reg) Vauxhall Corsa CLUB 16V 1.2L 3 door, Gold, 23,000 miles £5,490

2011 (11 Reg) Peugeot 107 URBAN 1.0L 3 door, Blue, 29,000 miles £5,490

2005 (55 Reg) Audi A4 TDI SE 2.0L 5 door, Grey, Diesel, 105,000 miles Was £5,790 Now £5,290

2008 (08 Reg) Vauxhall Tigra EXCLUSIV 16V 1.4L 2 door, Blue, 56,000 miles £4,990

2007 (57 Reg) Lexus IS 220d SE 2.2L 4 door, Silver, Diesel, 134,000 miles Was £5,790 Now £4,990

2007 (57 Reg) Vauxhall Zafira BREEZE 1.6L 5 door, Blue, 51,000 miles £4,990

2007 (57 Reg) Peugeot 207 SPORT 1.6L 3 door, Black, Diesel, 62,000 miles £4,690

2005 (05 Reg) Citroen Berlingo Multispace FORTE 1.4L Silver, 23,000 miles £4,499

2007 (57 Reg) Vauxhall Corsa DESIGN 16V 1.2L 3 door, Black, 45,000 miles £4,490

2010 (59 Reg) Fiat Panda DYNAMIC ECO 1.2L 5 door, Grey, 22,000 miles £4,290

2005 (55 Reg) Vauxhall Tigra 16V TWINPORT 1.4L 2 door, Blue, 53,000 miles £3,999

2006 (56 Reg) Nissan Note SE 1.4L 5 door, Black, 59,000 miles £3,990

2007 (07 Reg) VW Fox URBAN 6V 1.2L 3 door, Blue, 50,000 miles £3,990

2005 (55 Reg) Renault Modus MAXIM DYNAMIQUE 16V 1.4L 5 door, Blue, 27,000 miles £3,290

2005 (55 Reg) Vauxhall Meriva LIFE 16V TWINPORT 1.4L 5 door, Purple 51,000 miles £3,290

2006 (56 Reg) Kia Carens LX 16V CRDI 2.0L 5 door, Black, Diesel, 69,000 miles £2,990

2001 (Y Reg) Toyota MR2 ROADSTER SMT 1.8L 2 door, Silver, 91,000 miles £2,490

2001 (51 Reg) Honda Accord I-VTEC SPORT 1.8L 5 door, Blue, 87,000 miles Was £1,990 Now £1,790

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The Vauxhall ADAM is first when putting on the style

Talk to anyone who really knows about cars and they'll tell you how good the latest generation Corsa is. Trouble is, the man in the street still associates the Corsa with the mediocre old vehicles which replaced the Nova and weren't particularly great.

The ADAM rides on a cut down version of the Corsa's chassis and that can only be good news.

It's been extensively re-engineered to suit the demands of the shorter wheelbase. It's ostensibly quite a simple set-up but Vauxhall has invested years of know-how into it.

Up front are a set of MacPherson struts while the rear end utilises a torsion beam set-up. Ease of use on urban roads is enhanced by a CITY mode, which increases the electronic power steering system's assistance at lower speeds.

This is a car that's going to sell largely on whether the styling chimes with new car buyers and Vauxhall certainly can't be accused of going at it half-cocked. There's a lot going on, the design work attributed to Brit, Mark Adams' team in Europe.

The ADAM incorporates a 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body, which works particularly well with two-tone colour schemes. It looks like no other Vauxhall but still incorporates a bunch of existing styling cues.

Like MINI, Vauxhall is looking to appeal to the customer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials. Wheels range from 16in in size for entry-level cars and there are 17 and 18in options further up the range, with a lowered sports chassis part of the deal.

Unlike many cars which offer striking exterior designs, but an interior which betrays a sudden curtailment of development budget, the cabin of the ADAM is, if anything, even bolder than the exterior.

Riotous

There's extensive use of body-coloured trim inserts, not only on the dashboard but also reaching along the centre console and onto the steering wheel, aimed at giving the interior a real riotous personality.

A seven-inch touch screen interface is the big point of interest from a technological perspective. It's both iPhone and android compatible, and can access internet-downloaded apps in the same manner as the latest Renault Clio and Peugeot 208. Where specified, the navigation and infotainment controls are all marshalled by the touch screen. There's even a choice of headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim.

Prices for the 1.2-litre ADAM start at just over £11,000, so there's a saving of around £300 over the lesser-powered of the two 1.4-litre petrol models. Whichever engine you choose, the ADAM is offered with three trim levels, JAM (fashionable/colourful), GLAM (elegant/sophisticated) and SLAM (racy/sporty).

The latest generation ESP system is standard on all models and it also includes a Hill Start Assist function. The wonderful star-effect roof and a heated steering wheel are options which differentiate the Vauxhall from run-of-the-mill city car contenders and these features are key in a market that's not always led fully by upfront pricing.

Expect 53.3mpg on the combined cycle and 124g/km of CO2 from a 1.2-litre ADAM, figures which improve to 56.5mpg and 118g/km if you specify the extra cost ecoFLEX package. As well as low rolling resistance tyres, this includes a start/stop system which cuts the engine when you don't need it, stuck in traffic or waiting at the lights.

All enough to make a difference of around five per cent to your figures, stats you can hopefully replicate on a day-to-day basis thanks to an 'Eco Drive Assistant' – basically a section of the trip computer which monitors energy consumption and indicates when to shift up.

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VW pumping up power

At the 1974 Geneva Motor Show, a sleek new Volkswagen hatchback coupe made its debut.

Forty years and over a million sales later, the Volkswagen Scirocco is preparing to return to Geneva, with a new range of advanced engines that offer up to 280 PS yet also promise fuel efficiency improvements of up to 19 per cent, without compromising the Scirocco's dynamic performance.

Externally, the Scirocco's stylish shape has been refined and modernised with new headlights and tail lights, as well as revised bumper styling.

The revised front bumper features aerodynamic 'blades' in the outer section, like those of the latest-generation Golf GTI, with integrated indicator lights, daytime running lights and fog lights. On models fitted with the optional bi-xenon headlights, the daytime running lights are LEDs within the main headlights. At the rear, all Sciroccos now have LED tail lights, while the bumper has been reshaped to appear lower and more purposeful. As on a Golf, the Volkswagen logo badge now has an additional purpose: functioning as the tailgate release handle.

As before, the range-topping Scirocco R has a distinct look, with bespoke bumpers and alloy wheels. The Scirocco R now comes as standard with 18-inch 'Cadiz' alloy wheels, as on the Golf R. The rest of the range also receives new alloy wheel designs, including the option of the 'Talladega' alloy previously reserved for the 'R'.

Under the bonnet (which as before features the Volkswagen roundel) are six new tubocharged direct-injection petrol and diesel engines, all of which meet EU6 emissions standards and return between 68.9 and 34.9 mpg.

Inside, the dashboard has been updated, with new-look dials and an auxiliary instrument cluster above the centre console, consisting of chronometer, charge pressure and oil temperature gauges – a tribute to the 1974 model.

Orders open in the UK in May, with first deliveries in September. More details available closer to launch.

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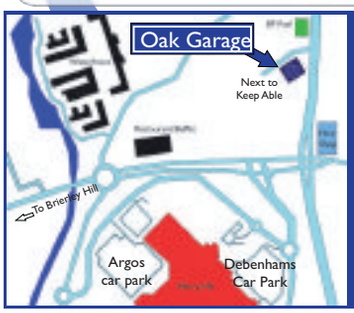

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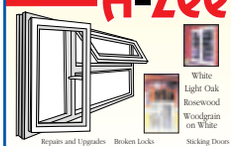

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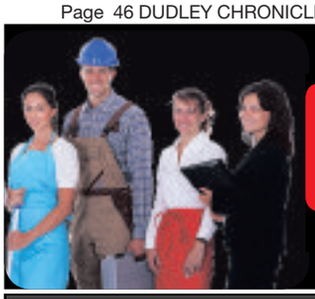

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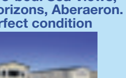
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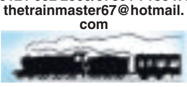

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GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large. Screened soil and crushed hardcore for sale. All skips for weekend must be booked by Friday. Call: 0121 555 6060.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

tiling

A FLOOR AND WALL TILER. Est., 25 years. Free quotes. Call Mark 07983 459088, 01902 664048.

upholstery

RE-UPHOLSTERY SPECIALISTS. Your suite / chair re-upholstered / repaired as new. Free quotes. Est 40 years. Call 01902 404698.

4 Pets & Animals

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

SHETLAND MARE 3 yrs old, black, would make ideal companion for other horse. £125. Could deliver. 07975 626073.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

THEOBEN .177 Breakke Barrell with gas strut, Simmons sight. 39 x 50, case included, £300 ono. 07554 505860.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BORDER COLLIES
PEGGY 7year old black and white spayed girl
SPLASH 7 month old tri coloured boy
FREDDY 9 month old border collie x springer
TOBY 1year old tri coloured Collie
MAX 5year old border Collie
LUCY 3year old Tri Colour Collie
ROBBIE 6year old border collie x jack russell
For more information 01588 676106.

CAVALIERS AND CAVAPOO'S adorable puppies and juniors. £325/£850. 07867 530504.

CHIHUAHUA SHOW Kennel has pet puppies to offer to forever homes, boys £100, girls £250, vaccinated and insured, also spayed bitches. 0121 453 1354.

DEXIE
Border Collie Boy, seven years old, very affectionate, loves his walks, shy and nervous so needs a calm home.
Active pensioners would be perfect for this boy as he spent his previous years with five Children.
If you can offer this boy a forever home call
01746 780434 or 01588 676106.

FOREST DOG RESCUE
Rehoming -
Ben - Lab X Collie, 8mths, male. **Bruce** - Mastiff X, 2yrs, male. **Gracie** - Terrier, 3yrs, female. **Misty** - GSD X Husky, 2yrs, female. **Lady** - Husky X, 2yrs, female. **Jay** - Collie, 8yrs, male . **Foxy** - Husky X, 9mths, male. **Bessie** - Staffie, 9rys, female. **Snowy** - Staffie, 2yrs, female. **Pete** - Staffie, 2yrs, male. **Rex** - Boxer X Staffie, 1yr, male. **01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk**

GORGEOUS YORKSHIRE terrier puppies, both parents can be seen with pedigree papers, boys £300, girls £350. 07807 243036.

HEADS & TAILS dog grooming service. £5 off every fifth visit. Please call 07792 870543.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING & sitting service. W-ton, fully insured & reg. Senior citizen rates. 07855 275537.

LABRADOODLE PUPPIES silver, all girls, 11 weeks old, loving homes only. £475. Call 07847 998790.

SIBERIAN HUSKY. Pedigree male. 2 yrs old. Illness forces sale. Loving home only. £250. 07506 328717.

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER bitch, 13 weeks old, £150. 01902 343507.

£5 OFF GROOMING when booking in with our trainee groomer. Dirty Dogs Dog Wash 01384 262071.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

UNITS TO LET 2700sqft refurbished & 1300sqft awaiting refurb. Dudley DY1 1RB. Allocated Parking & yard area 07749069057

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

commercial premises

BTC PROPERTIES UNITS AND OFFICES TO LET
6,000 Sq Ft Yard
High St Tipton
1000 Sq Ft Unit Coseley
Offices also available. Flexible terms Call 01902 497696 or 07788 591679

UNITS TO LET IN WOLVERHAMPTON
Suitable for many uses.
From £40 pw.
NO VAT
Telephone
07927 766799

6 Property

flats for sale

UPPER FLOOR TWO BED FLAT
Lounge, kitchen, shower room, double glazing, electric central heating, off road parking, **£70,000. 07730 477985.**

mobile homes

BRAND NEW LUXURY PARK HOME SHROPSHIRE
on select site, all main services, excellent locations, close to all amenities.
From £75,000
01902 373271

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

I BUY HOUSES!
Local investor pays 10k more. Call Alex 07729 297901

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www.homesboughtfast.co.uk

We Buy Any House
We Pay 100% of Purchase Price
EVERY TIME
BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
We are a family run local business.
A fair offer from people you can trust.
No fees - Free solicitors
Call Stan on 01902 628047
or 0800 032 1718

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• Any area* • Repossessions Stop
• Deceased estates
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Guaranteed offer*
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FIRST GENERAL HOMES
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Get 95-100% For Your House - FAST!
✔ Free valuation. Free consultation
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UP TO 100% PAID
Fast Sale Maximum Value
Yellow Springbok
CALL FREE 0800 092 5743
01902 489 500
YellowSpringbok.co.uk

AN OLD GENT WITH CASH Looking for a house to purchase. Consider leasing back at nominal rent. **Telephone: 07900 012782.**

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BILSTON 2 bedroom house, D/G, C/H, DSS welcome. £450 pcm. 01902 428377 or 07549 825920.

CASTLECROFT near Wton, 2 bed house, CH, DG, garage. £575pcm. Telephone 07719 701922.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

FLAT TO LET Wolverhampton, 1/2 bed CH, DSS welcome, off road parking. 07718 896058.

FULLY FURNISHED ONE BED FLAT Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 or 01902 700028.

IMMACULATE ground floor one bed flat. Lovely location, Essington. Telephone 07454 015789.

NETHERTON new build, 1 bed appt, garage, parking. £450pcm. Also one bed flat, block of 7, parking, no bond/deposit. £395 pcm. Private landlord. No fees or additional costs. Call Kevin on 07973 444059.

ONE BED flat, part furnished, Tettenhall area, £400pcm. No DSS. 01902 744700 or 07765 964999.

ONE BEDROOM FLATS To let, Wolverhampon. Also on suite rooms. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

PENN HOUSE AVE. One bedroom unfurnished apartment for 55 years or over in sheltered accommodation. £475pcm. 07804 140488.

PROPERTIES WITH 2+ BEDROOMS AVAILABLE FOR RENT in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Sedgley, Halesowen and surrounding areas.
Rent starts from £69 per week for a flat.
Telephone 01384 815100

THREE BED House, unfurnished, recent new decor. GCH, DG. Willenhall. £450pcm. 01384 288431.

THREE BED house, working / Dss accepted, CH, DG, good condition, 01902 753217. 07552 831885.

TWO BED FLAT
Private parking, quiet village location, newly revamped to high standard, between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton.
ONE BED STUDIO FLAT
Self contained, near to M54.
07732 547421.

UPPER GORNAL, Dudley, 3 bedroom house, central heating. 01902 676540.

WV6 New build, two bed semi, carpeted, garden, garage, parking space. £550 pcm. Direct from private landlord. No agency fees or additional costs. Call Kevin on 07973 444059.

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOM Properties available in Wednesfield / Tipton. DSS accepted. Call: 07773 594640

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

7 Jobs

full time - general

APPOINTMENT Makers required experience an advantage but not essential as training will be given. Basic pay plus commission. Call Neil or Paul on 01384 254878.

building & construction

EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLDERS Required. Must be Part 1 / Part 2 / Advanced CISRS registered. Own transport is essential. To work on site in Worcestershire. Price Work. Tel: 0121 505 6366 or 07973 174504.

drivers

EXPERIENCED LUTON VAN DRIVER required,to deliver garden sheds nationwide. Salary is £325 per week Monday to Friday, must be polite, over 25 with a clean licence and a good knowledge of the UK. Please send CV and covering letter to sales@empiresheds.co.uk

employment wanted

PROFESSIONAL COMPANION / CARER
for the elderly available.
I offer practical support that can enable a person to maintain quality of everyday life, whether its help getting to and from appointments, shopping or a more extensive package of support. The service is tailored to the needs of the individual.
No agencies, private clients only considered. Qualifications and references available.
For more information please contact
01902 341546
brentwood9@sky.com.

19 YEAR OLD MALE Seeks employment. 2 years in carpentry. Most things considered. Please phone 07800 898376 / 01902 762919.

engineering

CNC MACHINISTS/Programmers (Heidenhain) Press Tool Experience Required. Moseley Brothers Ltd, Tipton 0121 520 6703.

EXPERIENCED VERSATILE PRESSBRAKE Setter / Operator required. Ideally with previous experience of heavy bending. This is a full time position in a well established small steel fabrication company. Competitive rate of pay. Dudley area.
Contact 01384 560291.

LATHE/MILLER OPERATOR /Maintenance Assitant. Interested candidates please reply with CV to Managing Director, James W Shenton Ltd, Tinsley Street, Great Bridge DY4 7LQ.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER An electricity biased maintenance engineer required for a busy conveyor chain manufacturer. Knowledge of CNC and Press machines desirable. Must also be willing to carry out mechanical tasks when required.
Please call 01384 455455 for application form.

PRESS TOOLMAKERS. Experienced Automotive press toolmakers and improvers req. Moseley Brothers Ltd 0121 520 6703

nursing & carers

MONITORING OFFICER / SENIOR CARER required for large Domiciliary Care agency. Applicants must be honest, trustworthy, flexible, computer literate, have own transport. NVQ 3's preferred but not essential. Apply to Tipton Homecare on 0121 557 3649 or email stuart.higgins@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

TIPTON HOMECARE LTD require Community Care Workers. Applicants must be honest, trustworthy and reliable and CRB checked. Hours to suit individuals, evenings /weekends, full / part time staff. Driver preferred but not essential. Areas to be covered Tipton, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Great Barr and Dudley. Applicants must specify working times. Please contact Stuart Higgins 0121 557 3649 or email stuart.higgins@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

part time - general

GARDENER ASSISTANT Required 2 to 3 days per week Start 1 April. Wage negotiable. 0121 556 5571

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

Registered Nurse (RGN or RMN)
Dudley, West Midlands
Full/Part Time and Bank considered
From £13.13 per hour + paid breaks

We're looking for dedicated RGNs and RMNs to join our expert teams of nurses at our specialist nursing homes in Dudley, West Midlands.

If you're a highly motivated RN with a valid NMC PIN Number, consider a move to Bupa Care Homes. Passionate about making lives better, Bupa is dedicated to clinical excellence – inspiring and supporting our nurses to put people at the heart of everything they do.

We offer:
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For further information please contact Urszula on 07715058131
buparecruitment@ochrehouse.com

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courses

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HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

DRIVER CPC periodic training. Part and full day courses available. ADR training also available. Please contact 07745 232463

FUNDED SECURITY COURSES for Jobseekers. Contact Mercury Training 01384 482186

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMA Established 25 Years
54 FIAT PUNTO
3DR Hatch silver. **£1,250**
52 CORSA
5DR Hatch, 1000cc. Silver **£1,250**
02 CITREON PICASSO
Light Blue metallic, **£1,250**
51 Ford Focus
5DR hatch 1600cc. **£995**
Cars under a £1000 with full MoTs
WWW.BMAMOTORS.CO.UK
01902 490555 / 07553 358610
DALE STREET, BILSTON, WV14 7JY

BMW 328 iSE, 1998, silver, leather, all electrics, MoT, tax, 136k, FSH, lovely car, £570 ono. 01902 621123 or 07405 196046.

CHRYSLER NEON LX 2.0 auto, '03 52 reg. 58k miles VGC, SH, MoT 02/15. Cheap 4-dr automatic. P/ex ava £1,150 ono 07543481453 T.

CITROEN SAXO FORTE 2001, 1100 cc, tax and MoT'd, good reliable runner, £700 ono. 07944 257832 or 07706 200522.

CITROEN XSARA 1.4, 2001, 8 months Tax and MoT, very tidy, £395. 07851 107267.

FIAT MULTIPLA 02, 6 seater, tax, MoT, one owner, 89k, good condition, £795 ono. 07411 958454.

FORD ESCORT Van 75, 1.8 diesel, tax/MoT, good runner, £475pcm. 01902 678937.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 54 reg, white alloys and stripes, 11 months MoT. £1,495. 07738 976025.

FORD FOCUS
2001, 167,000 miles, green, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas.
£950 ono.
01902 310812.

FORD KA, 2002, 43,500 miles, green, MoT, tax, 2 lady owners, good condition. £850 ono. 07599 835806.

HYUNDAI ACCENT TURBO SI
1 owner, 1998, good runner, last service/MoT April 21, 2013, fitted new cat converter/new clutch, battery, tyres and pipes.
£325 ono. 07933 011227.

JAGUAR XJ8 3.2, 1998, 95,000 miles, silver, full MoT, tax, £900. 01902 784590.

MG ZR 1.8 PETROL
51 reg, 11 months MoT, 5 months Tax.Upgraded head gasket, cambelt changed at 52,000. 64,000 on clock, 2 new tyres.**£1,000. o.n.o**
Telephone 07577 804642

PEUGEOT 106, 2003, 1.2, 81,500 miles, gold, abs, air bag, full MoT, pas, 6 months tax, good runner, reliable, £675 ono. 01902 746031.

PEUGEOT 206 SW Estate, 2003, 1400cc, petrol, long MoT, tax, 71k miles, £795. 07950 398750.

ROVER 25 2004, gold, 1396cc, 64,000 miles, 7 months MoT, 5 months tax, very nice condition £845 ono. 07583 353683.

ROVER 75 2002, low mileage, MoT til January 2015, tax to end of June 2014, good condition inside and out, £850. o.n.o. 07402 998375.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 2002, 4 months MoT, new tyres, battery and recent service. £360 ono. 07814 514910.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2001, 51 reg, 1.2, 3 door, 88,800 miles, green, 12 months MoT, e/w, pas, rc/l, good clean condition,£995 ono. 07761 532710.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT ESTATE 2.0S, grey, full MoT, reliable, high specification and good condition. 132k. £1,450 ono. 01384 395235.

VW POLO 1.2, 12v, MoT till December, tax till May, very clean, good condition, good runner, £1,450 ono. 07949 510980.

cars over £1500

BMW X5 SPORTS EXCLUSIVE

Facelift model, 55 plate, sapphire blue with cream leather, sat nav, heated seats, panoramic roof, electric memory seats.

This car is fully loaded with new tyres, taxed, full MoT, 98,000 miles with history.

Stunning 4x4 does over 30mpg.

Don't miss this one!

£9,450.

07870 686248.

FIAT PUNTO DYNAMIC 56, 1.2, 3dr blue, 55,494 miles from new, 1 lady owner, MoT, pas, EM, EW, alloys, CD, £2,700 ono. 07973 347042.

FORD FOCUS 1.6LX, 2007, 64k miles, lady owner, full MoT, tax, dark grey, good condition, £2,995 ono. 01384 820906.

FORD FOCUS GHIA 1.6 SALOON
Very, very low mileage 28,000 miles.
1 owner from new, full Ford S/H, excellent inside/out, tax/MoT 10 months, perfect to drive.
£1,995 ono. 07808 470751.

JAGUAR X TYPE 04 reg, diesel all leather int, tax, MoT, 1st to see wil buy, £2,000. 07599 905276, 01562 743652.

KIA SEDONA 3000CC Diesel, 07 reg., 58K, tax, full MoT, 7 seats, dark blue, very good condition £4,500 ono. 01902 751227.

KIA SPORTAGE. 09, Petrol, LPG. New belts. FSH. A/C. 10 months MoT, 3 months Tax. 2 year warranty. £7,500. 01746 218632.

MERCEDES C200 KOMPRESSOR
AVANTGARDE 2003, 72,000 Miles, Blue , Automatic, leather interior, fsh, spots, 6 month Tax/MoT.
£3,500 ono
07710 217981

MINI COOPER S Convertible, 56 Reg, 50,000 Miles, grey, MoT Sep, TAX Aug, Chilli Pack, visibility pack, £6,295. 07833 117445.

NISSAN ALMERA 1.5-SVE
2005, 38,600 miles, light blue, air con, fsh, MoT, sunroof, tax, stereo, CD, navigation system, 3 door, petrol, excellent condition.
£1,900.
01746 762168.

PEUGEOT 307 2.0HDI/XSI
Immaculate, 2005, 3 door, 62,135 miles, gold, full MoT, 6 months tax, fsh, abs, alloys, e/w, e/m, a/c, alarm, c/l, diesel, genuine sale reason.
£3,750 ono.
01902 880756.

PEUGEOT 307 CONVERTABLE
2005, 81,000 miles, black, abs, air con, central locking, pas, alloys, good condition, tax and MoT.
£2,695.
07956 909034/01384 863372.

SEAT IBIZA Sportsrider, 08 reg, very low mileage, one owner from new. No Tax, MoT. £3,500 ono. 07534 554156.

SMART 44
1.2, 05 reg, silver and green, semi automatic, 6 months tax, 4 months MoT, EW, CD, Excellent condition.
£2,300 ono.
01902 820631. 07758 955534.

MUST BE SEEN
VAUXHALL ASTRA VXR ARCTIC EDITION
60 reg, white, 15000 miles, full Vauxhall Service history, leather interior, Sat Nav, 10 months Mot, 6 months tax lovely car,
£9,000 ono.
Telford 07739 208009.

MUST BE SEEN

driving tuition

AUTOMATIC DRIVING TUITION
Teaching able bodied and disabled.
Fully adapted vehicle.
Two hour assessment lesson £34.
Patient female instructor
Telephone: 07791 486560

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
Christmas & Birthday gift vouchers available.
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01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

WANTED British and Japanese motorbikes, any condition, also parts and spares. Call 01902 562154 or 07898 774008.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

WE PAY BEST
for all scrap cars & vans
Scrap it legally Avoid fines
We supply a certificate of destruction.
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No Worries Call Chris:
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MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
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1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

A BAD DEAL COSTS YOU CASH Cars/Vans, 01 reg onwards.Top prices,will visit.07970 705466.Now!

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 495758 / 07903 549849.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

engines

HEADGASKETS from £225, timing belts from £60. Clutches. All engines repaired / reconditioned. EC Engines 01384 484866.

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

VALERIE ANNE PARKES (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 99 Vicarage Road West Dudley DY1 4NR, who died on 04/12/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 16/05/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
NORTHWOOD BANKS & CO LTD
1600-1602 Coventry Road Yardley
Birmingham B26 1AL *T403282*

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

general

LES MISERABLES
London, June 4.
£76 including coach.
07930 887806.

WOMBOURNE WARRIORS UNDER 16'S
Require a Goalkeeper.
We play in the Bilston League, Premier Division.
Please Call Wayne on
07982 723596.

personal

ALONE? OVER 35?
Introduction for Friendship /Companionship. Birmingham/West Mids areas.
Contact Jane Stephens for FREE details: 01432 355144
www.janestephensbureau.co.uk Est. 1977.

BIG BUDDY HOLLY FANS

Your support may be beneficial in further enhancing and promoting the legend.

Your support may make a difference.

Lawrence.

Box Number P19090,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802 3093 for details.

GENTLEMAN, 68
Not unattractive, young outlook, with GSOH, varied interests.
Seeks lady aged between 60 - 67, for companionship, hopefully lasting relationship.
Box Number P19099 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES .

LOOK

SLIM, YOUNG AT HEART
Lady, 70, widowed, seeking a female for friendship and companisionip, maybe someone in a similar situation to me who would like regular company.
Must be able to drive as I live in the country close to Bridgnorth/Wolverhampton.
Please supply phone number.
Box Number P19096 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

WOLVERHAMPTON FOOTBALL COMBINATION NEW TEAMS
Are now being accepted for season 2014 - 15
Contact Mr C E Yardley
01902 753125
07805 455602.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

Classified Ads

star extra TRAVEL

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures
Saturday Night from £139.95
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Hardy pierces Pearce's title hope

Boxing

STOURBRIDGE'S Steven Pearce saw his march at titles come to an abrupt halt as Ryan Hardy arrived at Walsall Town Hall looking to upset the apple cart, writes Craig Birch.

The two battled for the vacant British Masters welterweight title with Hardy, who would finish the night wearing a belt for the first time, prevailing on points after the 10-round duration.

The Sheffield visitor had Pearce unsettled as soon as ran down to the scene of battle for his ring entrance and his, at times, over-confidence proved to do the trick.

He showboated, sucked it up and traded blows at equal measure against the former Midlands champion, boxing his fourth straight title fight but the first to go the distance.

As the fight wore on, Hardy piped down for a time with his mouth bloodied by frenzied attacks, Pearce nursing a nose-bleed by the fight's end. Referee Shaun Messer, from Dudley, had it 98-95.

The second title fight on the bill saw Luke Paddock, from the Walsall district of Bloxwich, show some grit to claim the eight-round British Masters Bronze light welterweight belt.

Gloucester's Andy Harris, stepping in at late notice for Stoke's Kevin Hanks, had plenty of defeats on his paid ledger but was also a former holder of said belt at lightweight.

He shook Paddock with a right hook to the head in the third round, forcing him to hold on for dear life, before his eye marked in the fifth round which proved to be a huge problem.

He still rocked Paddock's head back with a right hand over the top that beat a high guard in round six, although the West Midlander fought back with a match-ending shot in the eighth.

Paddock launched a right hook right into the troubled area of Harris come the last round and his eye soon swelled up like a ball, forcing referee Gareth Morris to call for the doctor.

It was all over from there and the stoppage came with 93 seconds of the fight left. Paddock was 69-64 up on points with Morris going into the last round.

On the undercard, hometown fighter and Midlands cruiserweight champion Christopher Keane was given a run-out with a 40-36 points landslide over Lithuania's Igor Borucha, Messer officiating.

Kingswinford's Kyle Spencer suffered his first pro defeat at light middleweight to Junior Thompson. A right hook to the jaw in the ropes brought his hands down and they never came back up.

Messer dived in as a prone Spencer was subjected to further abuse. Debutant Thompson, at 11st 5lb 8oz, had weighed in exactly six pounds heavier than his opponent.

Swindon struggle and lose to Enville

Swindon (81 all out) lost to Enville B (82-0) with 2.2 overs remaining

SWINDON'S batsmen struggled to get into the game and after 6 overs had managed just 23.

Dan Such (1-13) and James Willis bowled a tight line conceding 13 in the first four overs and when replaced by Carl Bust things didn't improve much, Bust bowling his three for just 19.

Nevertheless 58 in the second six overs was a real improvement and gave Swindon's score some respectability and the team some hope. Many of these late runs came from Dan Wale (20) and Luke McDonnell (27) which included a seven off his bat.

Swindon's bowling was far more generous and Enville's reply took advantage with James Willis in his first game racing to 25 and retirement. Matt Grainger (22no) and Matt Perkins (15 no) then knocked off the remaining runs in the 10th over.

Hagley (105-3) lost to Belbroughton (107-1) in the final over

Benteke's best 'is still to come'

VILLA boss Paul Lambert today insisted Christian Benteke's best is yet to come as the striker targeted a late-season goal spree after shooting down Norwich.

The Belgium international netted twice in three first-half minutes as his side went 11th in the Premier League with a vital 4-1 victory over Norwich at Villa Park yesterday.

But Lambert says the 23-year-old is still improving after signalling a return to his best with a fine all-round display against the Canaries after a dip in form.

"As soon as he scored the first goal, his game was great," said Lambert. "He was controlling the ball when there were people trying to get to it and when he's at it he's an absolute handful, world class.

"I knew it was going to be hard (this season) because the lad has only been in Britain for a year-and-a-half. Benteke said: "I hope now I'm going to keep my level up."

Single goal gives the victory to The Yeltz

Halesowen Town 1 Leek Town 0

HALESOWEN consolidated second spot in the league table after Ben Haseley's crucial 25th goal of the season edged out third placed Leek in front of 562 fans - the best attendance of the season.

Leek's Ryan Dicker hacked clear after Haseley latched on to a throw-in from Tom Tonks at the start of the first of a trio of vital top-of-the-table clashes which are in the pipeline for the Yeltz.

Football

The visitor's only real danger of the first half came when Dicker met Anthony Danylyk's 19th minute corner with a glancing header but home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant stayed alert to make the save at his post.

There was no score for the first half hour of the match as each side tried to break the deadlock and get in front.

Haseley pounced in the six-yard box to grab Halesowen's deserved 35th minute winner after efforts from Aaron Forde and Tonks were cleared off the goal line with Leek temporarily reduced to 10 men.

With Halesowen in the ascendancy, Forde went close again when he fired just high after robbing Leek captain Sam Hall three minutes later.

At the start of the second half Leek goalkeeper Chapman beat away a 25-yard effort from Iyseden Christie before gathering Joe Hull's header under his bar.

Chapman then made an excellent save to keep out Forde's fierce 69th minute volley.

But Leek caused a few home jitters as they pressed for a late equaliser.

Halesowen stopper Sargeant beat the ball away after Hall found space and the keeper kept the points safe in the third minute of injury time with a fine low save after substitute Tim Grick burst through the heart of Halesowen's defence.

With the only goal of the game The Yeltz made their spot in the table a little more secure.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Kelly 86), Forde, Hull (c), Tilt, Griffiths (Gueyes 89), Tonks, Christie (Penney 90), Haseley, Turner.

Unused Subs: MacKenzie, Pearson (GK).

Leek Town: Chapman; Smith, Bell, Dicker (Donnelly 36), Espley, Hall (c), Danylyk (Maguire 67), Shelley, Kinsley, Johnson (Grick 62), Johnston.

Unused Subs: None.

Referee: Stuart Eagland

Saxons work hard to share the game spoils

Saxons' full back Tom Jarvis on the attack during the match against Macclesfield which ended in a draw

Macclesfield Blues 26
Stourbridge Saxons 26

A NERVE-shredder at Priory Park saw the spoils shared after Jamie Hearn's 75th minute penalty goal brought the scores level.

The Saxons opened the scoring with a Hearn penalty when a tackler failed to release. The Saxons were penalised at the scrum though, it was kicked into the corner and a catch and drive was fed to hulking second row Dean Williams who barged over from short range.

TheSaxons conceded a penalty deep in their 22 that the hosts opted to scrum, Jordan Brookes taking advantage to scamper over and score.

Drew Harper's drive from the base of the scrum was held up, but the next drive worked when Nile Dacres stretched out to score.

Hearn then levelled the score with just five minutes to play.

Runners head far and wide for races

ATHLETES from DK Running club travelled far and wide to pull on the blue hooped vest.

Those travelling the shortest distance went to Albrighton for the March Hair Raiser Race, a six and a half-ish off road race advertised as "tough and testing". Ben Foster was first DK runner home coming fourth in 37.47, Brian Preston was 26th in 44.40, Helen Tromans, 34th overall but claiming the third lady prize, finished in 46.25, John Andrews was 52nd in 49.43 and Jacqui Elton-Whittaker was 80th in 53.59.

Roger Beddard put the final touches to his preparation for the Barcelona Marathon in a week's time with a race over the half distance in Bath. In a high quality field Beddard hit 1.37.39 for 1185th place. Travelling the furthest was a trio to Berkshire for the Mizuno sponsored Reading Half Marathon. In a race with near 15,000 finishers Dave Norman was the first DK runner to cross the line in 1.28.45 for 753rd place, Mark Homer finished in 1.34.11 for 1,359th and Phil Smith was 1,679th in 136.16.

Lockmen get point from draw

SHIFNAL 0 Willenhall 0

THE Lockmen battled to another point at Shifnal in their fight against relegation from the West Midlands Premier.

The game's main talking point came on 14 minutes when Tony Clift was played clean through on goal.

He shot from 35 yards and the visiting keeper Vitor Pinheiro made a save with his hands outside his penalty box, but received only a yellow card.

Lockmen keeper James Wilson made one superb save just before half-time to touch a fine effort over the bar. Carl Whyte then saw a free header flash inches wide from an Eddie Wilson corner.

The second half was a little more open but both sides struggled to create chances. Whyte went close with headers from corners while substitute Jake Morgan saw one header go just over.

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Jackett works on cunning tactics

CUNNING Kenny Jackett says he is having to keep coming up with ways for Wolves to win as he bids to stay one step ahead of their rivals in the battle to go up.

Saturday's 3-0 win against Port Vale was ultimately comfortable but only after their Staffordshire neighbours matched their 4-2-3-1 formation and gave them a scare by wasting the chance to take a first-half lead through Tom Pope.

Bakary Sako's deflected drive eventually gave Wolves the breakthrough six minutes into the second half and they never looked back as Nouha Dicko's brace inside three minutes sealed their seventh win in a row.

"Tactically we need to work out a second or a third way of doing things if this particular way at present doesn't work for any individual case – which looked the case on Saturday for quite a long while," said head coach Jackett.

"We were playing well but not necessarily getting that breakthrough. Saturday was a good example.

"I was just thinking about changing things when we scored the first goal and then the game changed completely. It opened out and went end to end and I'm pleased to say we got more goals.

"I think you have to find different ways of doing it."

Drop fear is dismissed

BOSS Paul Lambert today dismissed fears of relegation at Villa. He insisted he was never worried about the drop after Villa took a huge leap to safety.

Sunday's 4-1 win over Norwich put them seven points clear of the Premier League's bottom three.

"I never really look down," said Lambert. "People were saying last week that West Ham were well and truly out of it and all of a sudden we are level with them.

"We will try to get to the next team above us and I never look at it negatively, I always think we can win games."

"We are a young team and we are miles from where we want to be.

"But we are slowly but surely getting there and if they keep growing and being confident their careers will keep going.

Clean sweep for Old Hales rugby squads

Rugby

Bedford Athletic 27 OH 1sts 31

The Old Halesonians club enjoyed a clean sweep as all of their teams were victorious.

Hales travelled to bottom of the table Bedford Athletic to what should have been a comfortable win.

For the first 20 minutes Bedford were totally dominant, two tries in succession, both converted and a penalty from pressure, again in the backs, gave them a 17-0 lead.

The visitors seemed to leave their game on the bus but fought back for an unconverted try by wing Simon Sabel.

Bedford again took the initiative with back play and scored another converted try to lead which visibly shocked the visitors into action.

The Hales pack took control and after 12 phases of driving play by Breese, Jordan, Taylor, Evans, Fitzgerald and Dempsey gained valuable ground.

A penalty to Hales after continued pressure saw the visitors elect a scrum, the pack drove forward for scrum half Nathan Jones to nip over for a try, converted by Powell.

In the second half Luke Smith went over for a try, converted by Powell 24 -19.

On 50 minutes loose head prop Tom Dempsey drove over for a try, converted again by Powell.

Bedford were not out of it yet, more elusive back play gave them ground close to the Hales try line, a well-taken drop goal put Bedford ahead 27 - 26. The next 10 minutes were frantic and crucial for Hales, they battled hard in spite of two yellow cards leaving 13 players on the field.

Forwards again did their stuff forcing another penalty close to the the visitors line wide out. Another scrum was elected, the drive was there, scrum half Jones again on the ball for a deciding close quarter try. The conversion failed but Hales retained a 27 - 31. Hales meet staunch rivals Bournville at home this week for another crucial game, kick off 3pm. Also Old Halesonians host their annual players reunion lunch at the club, commencing at 12.30pm.

Worcester 2nds 30
Old Halesonians 2nds 36
Old Hales 3rds 41 Worcester 3rds 12

Tries: Gaz Price, Ben Roberts, Alex Eccles, Steve Deakin (3) and Lee Davis

Old Hales 4ths 36 Worcester 4ths 26

Lichfield 7 Old Hales Colts 17.

Colts had a convincing win away to Lichfield.

DK SIDE SUFFERS ANOTHER SHUTOUT

Rugby

Dudley Kingswinford 0 Birmingham Solihull 36

ONCE again the faultless and undying spirit of this Dudley team shone like a beacon on the bright sunny afternoon at Heathbrook.

Alas, it was all to no avail as DK's season of woe continued at the hands of a very workmanlike Bees' side who ran out comfortable winners in the end.

Dudley were immediately on the back foot as they lost flanker Matt Squires to the sin bin after only two minutes for allegedly killing the ball at a ruck.

Bees took advantage of the extra man and launched an attack in midfield with fly half Adam Canning making the decisive break and raced almost un-opposed to the posts to score the opening try which he converted to take Bees into a 7-0 lead after 10 minutes.

Solitary

With Squires still off the pitch another strong attack by the visitors saw left wing Fensome go over for their second try which Canning just failed to convert. Back up to full strength, DK then launched attacks themselves but were unable to breach a solid defence and their only reward was a solitary penalty which fly half Kieran Pinches narrowly missed.

Further good work by the forwards saw them press the visitors line but despite their best efforts they just lacked that final cutting edge to get them over the try line.

However, the key difference between the two teams was that when the visitors got into the home 22, they pressed the advantage and were rewarded with a further two tries, one an interception by Adam Canning bagging his second of the match by running almost the full length of the pitch, and the other by scrum half Rod Petty just on half time, both converted by Canning.

With the wind advantage in the favour of the visitors the signs for the home side were ominous, but those odds do not phase DK and they opened the half strongly, and continued to press but still couldn't find a way through.

However, the now customary second half heroics were not rewarded by points, and despite Bees losing two players to the sin bin, DK could not find a way over the line to get the scores they so richly deserved.

No.8 Jon Tideswell forced his way over, but was adjudged not to have grounded the ball which summed up DK's luck on the day.

After soaking up all the DK pressure and restored to 15 men the visitors scored two further tries through second row Chris Goddard,.

Next week DK play Caldy, away. Kick Off 3pm.

DK's Harry Bayliss fends off a tackle during the match where his side suffered yet another shutout

Banbury crash to fifth loss

Banbury United 0
Stourbridge 4

TWO goals apiece for Ben Billingham and Luke Benbow earned Stourbridge victory as Banbury crashed to a fifth successive league defeat.

Gary Hackett's men took the lead after 33 minutes with a poor clearance from Tom Ryan going straight to Sean Geddes who drilled in a low 20-yard shot that hit the base of Kwame Fordah's right-hand post before rolling along the goal-line for Billingham to tuck away.

The visitors doubled their lead five minutes later after Kyle Haynes played the ball forward through the right channel area and Billingham squared the ball across low for Benbow to net.

Stourbridge stretched their lead further on 58 minutes as the referee played a good advantage enabling Kayelden Brown to drive on before sending the ball crossfield to Drew Canavan and from his right-wing cross Benbow was able to head home.

Billingham added a fourth goal twelve minutes from time after a clearance by keeper Fordah was fed to him from Geddes.

A goodbye to Baggies' Stan

ALBION paid tribute to Stan Rickaby after the former Baggies full-back died at the age of 89.

The right-back made 205 appearances, scoring twice during five years at The Hawthorns.

TheEngland international won a 1954 FA Cup-winners' medal after playing in every round before missing the final due to injury.

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